Maine Farmer.

AGRICULTURE, MECHANIC ARTS, LITERATURE, NEWS, &c.

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Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Half Fare to the Farmers' Convention.

The Maine Central Railroad will give FREE RETURN TICKETS to those attending the Convention of the Maine Board of Agriculture and State Dairymens' Association, at Waterville, next week, from any point on its line or branches. Tickets will be given out at the Convention.

"Special Messages" and "Manifesto" Editorials.

The public addresses and State papers of the Chief Executive of a State, are public property—and as such, proper subjects for remark and criticism. If the views they contain are deemed sensible and just, it is a proper matter for approval and commendation. If, on the other hand, the suggestions are regarded as impolitic, it is perfectly legitimate for such proposed measures to be criticised and condemned. When a State paper containing either one of these features is fairly and candidly discussed by a public journal, and its views and suggestions favored or opposed—such journal has a perfect right to the expression of its opinions, and a perfect right to give publicity to its approval or disapproval of such message or State paper. Acting upon this well recognized principle, the MAINE FARMER in its issue of 30th ulto., took occasion to criticise the suggestions relating to agriculture, as promulgated in the special message of His Excellency Gov. Dingley, transmitted to the Legislature of Maine, Jan. 18th. In doing so, it used fair, but forcible language, and positive expressions which no one could fail to understand. It did this because we believed the farmers of Maine would expect a journal, which for nearly half a century has been devoted to their interests, and regarded as their organ, should be on the alert to strike the right key note in their behalf, and for their advantage in any public measure of direct interest to them as a class. That the views expressed in our article to which reference has been made, were regarded as right and just—we have the most abundant testimony, not only from the personal approval of those qualified to judge, but from the unsolicited letters of prominent farmers in every portion of the State. One of the leading farmers in Androscoggin county, a gentlemen who occupies a high position in connection with the State Board of Agriculture and State Pomological Society, and who is understood to sustain close personal relations with our Chief Magistrate, writes: "I have just been reading your leader in the FARMER of the 30th. Bully for you! It is well done. I did not know you were so brave." Another, writing from another section of the State says: "The FARMER of 30th is just at hand. I can only say of your leader, it is good. good. I feared you would let the Governor with his studied neglect of the farmers go 'scot-free;' but for that editorial, thousands of farmers will heartily thank you." A hard working, intelligent farmer in Eastern Somerset, who gets his living by farming, writes: "I was very glad to see the action taken by our State Agricultural Society on the suggestion of the Governor to reduce the size of the Agricultural Report. Our chance for obtaining correct farming information is limited enough now, without cutting off the sources of that which we get. My advice to the farmers of the Legislature is to put that Message under the table." These, and many similar expressions attest the views entertained of our article by leading agriculturists in different parts of the State—but we have no room for more extracts of this kind.

But this article did not meet the approval of the Portland *Press*, nor the Lewiston *Journal*. We did not expect it would—and on this point, are not at all disappointed. The editor of the latter paper folds up his robes of State and lays them aside to assume the attitude of a champion of his own cause; and the special Augusta correspondent of the former, who occupies the position of Aid-de-camp on the staff of the Chief Magistrate, devotes its columns to a personal abuse of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, who is one of the editors of this journal. And while we are not disappointed at this, we are certainly disappointed that neither of these journals meet our views by fair and manly argument. In every instance in which they have alluded to the MAINE FARMER or its agricultural editor, they have studiously misrepresented the facts in the case, and descended to personal abuse, instead of using fair argument. We are the more sorry for this, because it is hard to reply to such unjustifiable attacks, without seeming to use the same weapons as are employed by them;—a course always to be deprecated, except in cases where no other mode of argument has any avail—then they become justifiable. And what are the arguments with which these journals meet our statements? The special Augusta correspondent of the Portland *Press*, in that paper of 31st ult., says: "An article appeared in the MAINE FARMER of this week, which is intended to be severe upon Gov. Dingley, but which is a series of bold misrepresentations, and stupid statements." And then to pay off the MAINE FARMER because it dared to attack a special message of the Governor of the State, and to express decided views of disapproval of some of its suggestions and measures; this correspondent, who holds a position on the staff of the Executive, and who in consideration of such appointment, must see that no man or paper utters views in opposition to those advanced in the message, without being made to suffer for such rash impertinence; we say to pay off the MAINE FARMER for such boldness, this correspondent tends to his journal some of the items in the annual account of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, and says: "As Mr. Boardman talks about economy, let us examine his bills for personal expenses! His expenses for travelling to farmers' meetings in various parts of the State, amount to quite a sum!" This is argument for you; this is an answer to the MAINE FARMER because it dared to speak for intelligent farming! And yet the items of bills paraded in the columns of the Portland *Press*, were legitimate and proper, and had all been audited and allowed by the Governor and Council. After the exposure of Mr. Boardman's bills, he began to realize that if they were extravagant or wrong, the responsibility of such was upon the Governor and Council, and so the following day telegraphed to the *Press*: "Mr. Boardman's bills are moderate enough and well vouched; the only question is to the necessity of increasing these expenditures." As no one had suggested an increase of these expenditures, or expected it, or intimated it—we ask our readers whether this looks most like argument, "stupidity" or studied, deliberate misrepresentation?

Not satisfied with this brilliant argument, the Governor's Aid-de-camp telegraphs to the *Press*, his horror that printed remonstrances against the suggestion of the Governor for the "practical discontinuance" of the agricultural report had been presented to the Legislature—and says the Governor made no such suggestion. We say he did. When he talks in his message about the agricultural report being printed as a "pamphlet in paper covers"—the exact words; and "several thousand dollars saved thereby"—the exact words—what is it but the practical discontinuance of the publication of the report? As now printed its entire cost is only "several thousand dollars;" and if this amount is to be saved, the whole edition is to be discontinued, else how are the "several thousand dollars" to be saved? This was the view of the matter taken by those who addressed the meetings of the State Pomological and State Agricultural Societies, on this subject—where a free discussion was had, and where not a single voice was heard in support of the Governors's proposition; notwithstanding the Lewiston *Journal* says "the remarks on the side of economy were studiously omitted" in the reports of the meeting—the actual fact being that every word uttered by the speakers were condemnatory of the Governor's suggestions, and consequently there was nothing to be reported on the other side, nothing having been said. Referring to these remonstrances the Lewiston *Journal* also says: "The hands that pulled the wires are very plain." Yes, they are, and we are glad of it. They are just as plain as the hands that pulled the wires in the appointment of a member of the Governor's staff for Cumberland county, where it was a matter of policy to have a man who could say "pleasant or unpleasant things" in the Portland *Press*, even though in pulling the wires to bring this about, the most sacred obligations were violated, the wishes of tried friends completely ignored, and the party who received the appointment "not worth a better place." Yes, "the hands that pulled the wires are very plain"—but they are farmers' hands, and we are glad they have the courage to pull the wires in their own interests, even though in so doing they provoke the displeasure of the Portland *Press* and Lewiston *Journal*. Who has a better right to pull the wires for themselves? Is it a crime for farmers to pull wires? Is the right of petition and remonstrance to be denied farmers? Let us remember this, and let us see brother farmers, if we are longer to be kept in the background, while political journals attempt to be the self-appointed guardians of our interests. When we want their help in this matter, we will let them know it; but just now we feel competent to get along without it.

In the Portland *Press* of Feb. 4th, is an editorial article of nearly a column in length, which is but a re-echo of the personal attacks of its Augusta correspondent, and which we should not consider worthy of notice but for one or two falsehoods which it contains, and which we desire to contradict. The first of these is that the FARMER has in the past "turned a cold shoulder" to the State College and "denounced its management and its managers." To this we have only to say that our files are at the service of Mr. Pullen, to bring to light our record on this matter, at any time he sees fit to refer to them. We have always given the institution our warmest support, and have only denounced the management when we deemed it for the best interest of the College to do so. And we shall denounce the management just as heartily in the future as in the past, if at any time we deem it is derelict in duty, or pursuing a course which we regard as contrary to the best interests of the Institution.

Its second false statement is, that "Mr. Boardman and Mr. Wasson arranged the little indignation meeting at the State House." In reply to this we have to say that the meetings of the State Pomological and State Agricultural Societies, held in this city on the 20th ult., and which both proved to be "little indignation meetings," on a pretty respectable scale, were both announced at least three months previous to the issue of that famous "special state paper" of Gov. Dingley, which happened to come just in time to receive the solid denunciations of the leading members of both societies. And we can inform the *Press* that we had nothing to do with the appointment of either meeting, neither did we speak to Mr. Wasson on the day of the meeting of the State Agricultural Society, nor did we go into the room where the meeting was held, during its session. Thus these misrepresentations of the *Press* fall to the ground.

And now we turn our attention for a moment to the Lewiston *Journal* of 3d inst., in which its senior proprietor, Gov. Dingley, has a leading editorial in reference to the leader in the MAINE FARMER of 30th ulto, entitled "Mr. Boardman's Manifesto." The patronizing tone in which it is written is perhaps its leading feature, and the one to be most strongly condemned. It is very well for the editor of the *Journal* to talk about economy, and to say what it "presumes the Governor thought necessary" in the matter of recognizing the interests of agriculture—but with those who know that it is the Chief Executive who thus descends from the chair of State, to explain to the readers of the *Journal* what the Governor "thought necessary," the presuming and patronizing language loses its force. It pats the farmers, and the "able" paper which is supposed to be champion of their political interests, gracefully on the shoulders; and all who know the deep influence of such polite attentions, know very well what it is for. We are certainly glad that paper appreciates "the general spirit and purpose of the Governor," as the *Journal* informs us it does; it is so pleasant to be appreciated! And as the *Journal* "cannot refrain from saying something" about the ability of the former Secretary of the Board of Agriculture who was "turned out" of the Secretaryship—we cannot refrain from saying that the *Journal's* allusion to this gentleman is probably gratuitous and without authority, and therefore has no connection with the matter at issue. If however, the "former Secretary" should in his own name, at any time, request the submitting of that affair to the public judgment, and thus call for the real cause of the "turning out" process, the present incumbent of that position is perfectly willing to enter upon such an investigation. It may be said, however, in reply to the *Journal*, that the present Secretary, who was asked to let his name be used as an opposition candidate a year previous to his election, only consented to it after having been assured that the old incumbent, who had held the position for sixteen years, was duly informed of the same and would withdraw his name from the Convention. His attempt to prevent the recognition by the Executive Council, of his successor as Secretary of the Board, after the record of his legal election had been made up by his own hand, is an evidence of his "ability," with which, perhaps, the editor of the *Journal* is not acquainted. We reaffirm: if the *Journal* or Gov. Dingley, wishes to be informed of the full and complete history of that transaction, which it now drags before the public, and which has nothing to do with this argument, they will find the present Secretary ready to show that no "injustice" was done his predecessor. The real facts in this case have never yet been given to the public.

The *Journal* says: "When the office of Secretary of the Board of Agriculture was created at the large salary of $1000, it was the design to have it filled with a man of science and ability; and had it been supposed the Secretaryship would be regarded as a mere clerk, the salary would have been much less." Indeed! The *Journal* pretends to know a great deal about the original designs of the Board of Agriculture and for what purpose its Secretary was to have so large a salary. "Filled with a man of science and ability" forsooth! Are the avenues of knowledge *controlled* by the "ablest agricultural writer and author in New England?" Does one man possess all the "science" in the State? Is Maine so poor in brains that it has only one man competent to "fill the office of Secretary of the Board of Agriculture," or the Gubernatorial chair? If so, we agree with the suggestion of the Message, that "paper covers" are good enough for its documents. In this office however, as in those of a higher and more exalted sphere, it is not always that large salaries secure the services of men of large and liberal views and of great "ability"—as we have too many instances at the present day to prove to the contrary.

But Mr. Boardman is interested; while the editors of other papers who favor the measure of the Governor regarding the agricultural reports, "hold no office liable to have its emoluments reduced by retrenchment, and their opinions are unselfish." We deny that Mr. Boardman had a *personal* interest in the suggestion of His Excellency, and Gov. Dingley knows it. Had the Governor suggested a reduction of the salary of the Secretary, there might have been good grounds for this charge—but as he only suggested the reduction of the size of the Agricultural Report, which would really if carried out, reduce the labor of the Secretary, it being less work to prepare a "small pamphlet" than a large volume—we deny the assumption; and reiterate that the only interest we had in the matter was to maintain the high value and character of the Reports, and to increase their usefulness to farmers, rather than to publish them in such a manner as to render them of less worth, than a single number of the Lewiston *Journal* or any other good paper. Gov. Dingley says the reports were formerly issued in "thick pasteboard covers." So they were; and it was only because the reports were read and preserved, and worn out in use, that it was deemed advisable to put them in covers that would be more in keeping with the value of the contents and the service the volumes are doing in enlightening and improving and elevating our farmers. No state documents are in such demand among all classes, and the demand has been greater for the last volume, than for any of its predecessors.

The *Journal* accuses us of giving no word of sympathy for any movement to reduce the public expenses and render taxation less heavy to farmers. We recognize the necessity of public economy in every department, and realize the fact that taxes bear heavily upon all classes, especially upon farmers. But we left the consideration of this great measure to the careful attention of the able Finance Committee, to whom the special message of the Governor has been referred, satisfied they would, after looking over the whole ground, recommend the wisest and best measures for the reduction of the public expenses. We did not care to meddle with the duties of this committee, nor descend to a discussion of matters with which we had little acquaintance; and so, after alluding to that portion of it of which we had some knowledge, left the discussion of other divisions of the subject to those more familiar with them. More especially were words of this kind unnecessary, when the whole course of the MAINE FARMER, has ever and invariably been known to be on the side of economy; and when its voice has often and repeatedly been raised in a plea for public retrenchment, and the necessity of economy in the administration of our State and national governments.

It is unfortunate, in these fast days, to be the editor of a weekly paper, and of a paper which is usually supposed to have no particular call for the exercise of the "muscle" of the brain. This becomes the more unfortunate, when both the "court journals" of the State happen to be dailies, and watch their opportunity to both publish their slanderous diatribes upon the MAINE FARMER, on the exact day and the day succeeding its issue for a current week—when no opportunity is given for a reply until the following week; and we say this for the purpose of calling the attention of our newspaper brethren to the "little game" played by the Executive and his Aid-de camp, in the management of their respective papers, so far as their warfare on this journal and one of its editors is concerned—to show by what high motives they are actuated, and how they hope to effect legislation by their continued abuse, during the time we have been compelled to remain silent.

We can conceive of few more undignified spectacles; than that of the Chief Magistrate of a State—who chances to be the owner of a public journal, descending from his high position, to carry on a newspaper controversy, which if necessary at all, could be more properly waged by other papers than the one in which he is interested—especially when that controversory relates to matters of public policy emanating from the Executive, and to take part in which he must lay himself open to the somewhat unpleasant charge of becoming a personal defender of his own measures. Both the office he represents and the character of the journal he owns, suffer an irreparable injury by such a course. There is loss of dignity on the one hand, and loss of independence—the crowning glory of journalism—on the other. If the Governor of Maine and the Lewiston *Journal* possess so much of these virtues that they can sacrifice any part of either by the course they have pursued in this matter, we are willing to let them enjoy the small portion which will remain to them after the decision of the people is given. As for the MAINE FARMER, it submits the merits of this controversy to its readers, with perfect confidence in their verdict.

The Farmers' Convention at Waterville.

The Farmers' Convention to be held at the Town Hall in Waterville on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week, 16th to 18th inst., is to be held under the joint auspices of the State Board of Agriculture, and State Dairymens' Association—the meeting of the latter society having been postponed from the time originally announced, to the above named date, in order to be held in connection with that of the State Board. Meetings will be held during the forenoon, afternoon and evening of each day, at which lectures and papers will be given to be followed by discussions, in which all farmers present are invited to take part. Among the lecturers and speakers who will address the meeting are the following gentlemen, viz: Prof. L. B. Arnold of Rochester, N. Y., Secretary of the American Dairymens' Association, and one of the most eminent authorities on dairy farming, on The Needs of the Dairy; President C. F. Allen of the State College, on Agricultural Education; Z. A. Gilbert, Esq., President of the State Board of Agriculture, on Planting an Orchard; Dr. J. W. North of East Jefferson, on the General Management of a Cheese Factory; Prof. M. C. Fernald of the State College, on The Influence of Education on Labor; Hon. Samuel Wasson of the State Board, on the Best System of Conducting a State Fair; Ira E. Getchell, Esq., of the State Board, on Farm and Market Gardening in Maine; Lyman Lee, Esq., of the State Board, on the Raising of Horses in Maine; A. L. Bradbury, Esq., of the State Board, on the Comparative Value of the Refuse of the Dairy for Feeding Calves and Swine; B. M. Hight, Esq., of the State Board, on the Relations of Capital and Labor as Applied to Farming; G. E. Brackett, Esq., of the State Board, on Associated Dairying; together with papers on subjects to be announced, by J. W. Lang, Esq., Secretary of the State Dairymens' Association, S. G. Foster, Esq., of Franklin county, and also from J. E. Shaw, Esq., W. D. Hayden, Esq., Hon. Hannibal Belcher, I. E. Mallett, Esq., and other members of the State Board of Agriculture. Some of these papers it is true, will be brief, and of such a character as to elicit discussion, while others will be of the nature of popular lecturers and suited to interest a general mixed audience. Let farmers make a note of the coming convention, and by attending, aid and share in its success and benefits.

For the Maine Farmer.

West Dover Farmers' Club.

Discussion on Manures.

At a meeting of the club for Jan. 12th, the following question was discussed: "The best method of making, saving and applying manure."

H. L. Leland. The exhausted condition in which we find much of our soil makes it a vital question to every farmer who expects to be successful in its cultivation, how best to increase, preserve and apply manure. The exhaustive system which is too often pursued of selling from the farm the crops raised without any adequate return in fertilizers, should be abandoned. Our practices have been wrong in selling large quantities of hay, potatoes and grain; and these crops should be consumed upon the farm and the products of the dairy, butter, cheese and veal; of the sheep-fold, wool, lambs and mutton; of the shambles, beef and pork, sold instead. By adopting this system large quantities of manure can be returned to the soil, increasing its fertility. In most instances it will pay well to purchase and use all the ashes leached and unleached that can be obtained at current prices. Lime, plaster and other commercial fertilizers can often be used with profit, when found by trial to be beneficial to the soil. The main reliance for manure must however be upon home resources. Those farmers will be found to be most successful, other things being equal, who make, save and apply the largest quantities of fresh manures to their soil. A source of great loss of fertility is the too general waste of the liquid portions of manure. The liquid has by chemical analysis and practial use been found to equal or exceed in value the solid portions. Farmers should adopt some method to save the liquid portions of their farm manures. The means most easily and generally employed for this purpose is to use absorbents.

At this point the discussion turned largely upon the value and use of muck. Mr. Demerett said he had used muck largely and in various ways. Used directly from the pit in its sour condition he did not consider it of any present value; indeed, on some soils he believed it to be an injury. The great value of muck is to absorb the liquid portions of manure. For this purpose he considered it the most valuable material that can be used. Muck as taken from the bed is cold and sour. Before it is fit for use it should be thrown up and exposed to the frosts of winter. Or the sourness can be more quickly neutralized by mixing quick lime with it. Ashes answer the same purpose. The addition of lime or ashes adds largely to the value of the muck. (Query: Why may not the farmers of the county adopt this method of adding largely to the fertility of their soils? Muck is abundant, and lime is now being manufactured in the county and sold cheap for agricultural purposes.—REPORTER.) When prepared as above, the muck should be used freely in the swine pens, cattle yards, and all places where manure is accumulating.

Mr. Burgess. The muck which I have been accustomed to use quite freely differs in quality from that used by Mr. Demerett. It is formed from the decay of hard wood growth. Used alone upon the soil it is to some crops quite beneficial. Its greatest value however, is as an absorpent and in the compost heap.

Mr. J. L. Leighton of Dexter, being called upon replied: The remarks that have been made on making and saving manure agree substantially with my experience. In the use of muck on my farm, if I could have it placed there without cost fresh from the pit, I would not use it. Prepared and used in the ways that have been alluded to, I consider it of great value.

J. P. Leland of Sangerville. To no one thing have I given greater attention than to the best methods of making, saving and applying manure. The conclusions to which I have arrived are, that the best machines to manufacture my crops into veal, butter, cheese, pork and fertilizers are good dairy cows and Berkshire pigs. The best place to save manure is in the barn cellar, using so much muck or other material as is needed to save all waste and put the manure in the most convenient form for handling. My stock when not at pasture are kept in the stable both summer and winter. I cart out my manure both spring and fall, applying it to plowed land and cultivating it in. I do not like the practice of plowing in manure deeply, and think we do not get so much benefit from it used in this way.

Mr. Royal. I know of several successful farmers in Waldo county, who prefer soil to muck for use in the compost heap. I know of one farmer who has made it a practice to collect large quantities of road dust to be used as an absorbent, and he considered it superior to any other material.

H. L. LELAND.

For the Maine Farmer.

Meteorological Notes.

Meteorological observations have been taken at the Maine State College for six years.

A recent examination of the records has furnished facts, some of which may be of general interest, and hence are submitted for publication.

Drawing conclusions from the brief period under notice, the month of July is invariably the warmest month of the year.

In five years out of six, the warmest day of the year has occurred in this month; the exception within the last six years was in 1871, when the warmest day was on the 30th of May, on which day the highest temperature of that year was also attained.

In four years out of six, the mercury in the thermometer has risen to the highest point for the year in July, the exceptions occurring May 30, 1871, and June 30, 1872.

In three years out of six, the coldest month has been January; the exceptions occurring in 1870 and 1874, when the coldest month was February, and in 1872, when the coldest month was December.

In five years out of six, the coldest day of the year has been in January; in 1872 it was in December. The lowest temperature has been attained twice in January, twice in February, once in March and once in December.

The following table gives the mean temperature for the year, based upon three daily observations taken at the hours adopted by the Smithsonian Institution, viz: 7 A. M., 2 P. M., and 9 P. M.

Year.	Mean Temperature.
1869,	41.77
1870,	44.26
1871,	41.92
1872,	41.60
1873,	40.93
1874,	41.35

The mean annual temperature for this period is 41.97.

A table still more serviceable, when we consider the relation of temperature to the growth and maturity of our harvests, is given below.

	Mean temp. from Apr. 1, to Oct. 1.	Mean temp. for remaining six months of year.
1869,	56.48	27.07
1870,	59.07	29.45
1871,	56.84	27.00
1872,	58.62	24.59
1873,	56.60	25.19
1874,	55.60	27.09

The average temperature during this period, of those months which include essentially the season of growth of our cultivated crops, is 57.20. The average temperature of the summer months for the same period is 64.90, which differs but slightly from the summer temperature on the same parallel of latitude (44.53), across the United States. The average temperature of the months from October to April is 26.73, and the mean temperature of the winter months is 18.47, or 13.53 below the freezing point of water.

The snow-fall during the last three winters was considerably in excess of the snow-fall during the three winters preceding as shown by the following record.

	Amount of snow in inches.
1869,	84.92
1870,	78.75
1871,	80.50
1872,	113.00
1873,	124.00
1874,	132.00

The average annual snow-fall for the entire period is 102.20 inches, an amount which with the low winter temperature indicated above, would seem to be sufficient to insure protection to the earth during the winter months.

The supply of rain (including melted snow) for six years is shown by the table below.

1869,	44.72 inches.
1870,	40.98 "
1871,	41.63 "
1872,	48.58 "
1873,	40.78 "
1874,	44.94 "

The average annual rain-fall for the period is 43.60. A comparison with the amount of rain in States west on nearly the same parallel of latitude may be instituted by means of the following data, selected from the "Smithsonian Rain Tables" published in 1872.

Annual Rain in Districts West.

Localities.	Latitude.	Depth, observ'ns	Based on Incbes. during
Burlington, Vt.,	44.28	34.15	27 yrs.
Malone, N. Y.,	44.50	31.45	9 "
Madrid,	44.43	30.38	3 "
Tomas City, Mich.,	44.16	22.61	8 "
Fort Mackinac,	45.51	23 96	13 "
Embarrass, Wis.,	44.51	34.08	3 "
Saint Paul, Minn.,	44.55	25.09	5 "
Fort Snelling,	44.53	25.82	22 "
Fort Pierre, Dakota,	44.23	13.51	2 "
Fort Smith, Montana,	45.20	13.13	1 "

Ten stations—Mean Latitude, 44.51. Mean Depth, 25.42 inches.

On a line whose mean latitude is nearly our latitude of observation, extending to the regions of the Rocky Mountains, we perceive that the annual rain-fall is less than that within our State by 18.18 inches.

The gradual reduction in the amount of rain in tracing the line west, is worthy of notice, the principal exception occurring near where the line crosses one of the Great Lakes.

The year 1874 presents an exception to the general fact that our most copious rains occur during the cold months of the year, as may be observed from the following table.

	Amount of rain from April 1st to October 1st.	Amount of rain during remaining 6 mos. of yr.
1869,	16.34 inches.	28.38 inches.
1870,	14.80 "	26.18 "
1871,	17.15 "	24.48 "
1872,	22.78 "	25.80 "
1873,	15.68 "	25.10 "
1874,	25.29 "	19.65 "

The excess of rain-fall during the colder months of the year, is assignable, in no small degree, to the usually abundant rains of October. The average for this month during the past six years has been nearly double the normal amount for a month.

The summer rains of 1872 amounted to 13.38 inches and those of 1874 to 12.42 inches. Amounts larger by several inches than the usual summer precipitation. These were the years also, in our State, of the most abundant harvests.

This statement simply adds confirmation to the well known fact, that the abundance of our crops in autumn depends very largely upon the frequency and amount of the *summer* rains.

As regards other meteorological conditions observed at Orono, space only is taken to state that 51 represents the mean percentage of cloudiness; 38 the percentage of wind N. W. & W.; 32 S. W. & S.; 11 S. E. & E., and 19 N. E. & N. that .252 inch is the mean height at which a column of mercury is maintained by the pressure of vapor in the atmosphere; that 29.792 inches is the mean height of the mercury in the barometer, (the elevation above sea-level being 134 feet) and that 75 represents the mean humidity of the atmosphere.

The observations of the past year still further confirm the correctness of the statement made on examination of the records for five years, in effect, that the location of the college represents the essential meteorological conditions (especially the temperature and rain-fall) of the State as nearly as the meteorological elements of so large an area can be represented by a single locality.

M. C. FERNALD.

Maine State College, Orono

For the Maine Farmer.

Notes from Eastern Somerset.

I find in visiting the farmers in this county that they are all making rapid improvements, both in the cultivation of their farms and in the improved breeds of cattle, sheep and horses. I find some of the best sheep here that I have ever seen in any part of Maine. I spent the night with J. W. Ross of Canaan, an enterprising young farmer who has just commenced farming for himself. He has a good farm of 135 acres, is raising some very nice young stock which ought to bring, and doubtless, will remunerative prices. He has some excellent ideas in regard to farming and stock raising, for which he tells me he is largely indebted to the MAINE FARMER, which his wife says they could not keep house without. With his faith in Maine farming and his untiring perseverance he will no doubt succeed.

The farm of Jas. Currier, Skowhegan.

This gentleman has one of the best farms in Somerset county, containing four hundred acres. Mr. Currier tells me that his father, one of the early settlers, bought this farm at a very low price, it being considered almost worthless for agricultural purposes, as it was wet and rocky. There is one thing in connection with this farm of which Mr. C. may proudly boast, and that is the five miles and sixty-five rods of underdrain which he has built himself. In making this he has killed two birds with one stone as the old saying is; he has cleared his land from stones and brought it from a low to a high state of cultivation. Where once he cut a small quantity of hay, of *poor* quality, he now cuts a heavy burden of excellent quality, showing that his labors have not been in vain, but that he is reaping a rich harvest for money and labor invested. I doubt if any farmer in the State can boast of more underdrains than he; and here let me say, if more of our farmers who own wet, rocky farms would adopt Mr. C.'s plan, they would in a short time double their hay crop and add much to the value and general fertility of their crops. Mr. Currier has a very fine orchard of about four acres, and he tells me he is going to cultivate less land and give his attention to fruit growing. He shew me an apple which he raises which he calls the Farmers' Reward, a new variety of which he thinks very highly. It is a prolific bearer, hardy and bears every year. Samples of this apple with some others of which he wishes to learn the name, will be left at the MAINE FARMER Office. Mr. C. has in addition to his orchard a very nice garden where they cultivate the smaller fruits. Mrs. Currier has charge of and does all the work in her garden. She tells me that she raised and sold five bushels of gooseberries last summer, besides three bushels of grapes. An inspection of her canned fruits also shew that enough had been reserved for home use. One article in this collection will commend itself to every good housewife, and that was the canning of green apples peeled and sliced, for pies. Mrs. C. says she can have green apple pies the year round by saving them in this way. I noticed several cans put up in this way which looked very nice; and if farmers wives would do more of this kind of work it would add to health and enjoyment, besides the luxury it would afford.

A Good Flock of Sheep.

Mr. G. Malbon has a flock of sheep that we think will be hard to beat anywhere in this county. They are grade Spanish, Native and South Downs. He tells me they will shear from 6 to 7 lbs. of washed wool per head. They certainly are very handsome. He also has some good colts one-fourth Knox; one 3 the other 2 years old. The two-year old weighs 950 lbs., stands 14 hands high, and we doubt very much if their equal can be found in this county. Mr. M. is a practical farmer and believes in making progress. B. M. Hight, Esq., with whom I spent the night, is one of the enterprising farmers of this town, has some very fine grade Durham cattle, also some choice sheep. He is taking special pains in this department with a view of getting good wool and good mutton.

There are very many excellent farms and practical farmers in this vicinity of which we may speak in some future letter. Skowhegan village is a thriving business place, and one of the prettiest villages in the State. The new woolen factory recently built here by the citizens of Skowhegan, will go into operation in the spring giving a new impetus to the place. There are some very nice residences in the village—in fact the houses are nearly all new or rebuilt so that the town has a thrifty, neat appearance.

Skowhegan. J. P. C.

For the Maine Farmer.

Dairy Farming and Sheep Husbandry.

I notice in your issue of January 9th, a communication with the above title from H. G. Abbott of North Vassalboro', in which he gives as his opinion that cheese factories after a few years will "go out of fashion." They may. But does it necessarily follow because Merino sheep are not now as highly esteemed as they were fourteen years ago, that cheese factories will in the course of a few years "run out," if I may use the expression? Let us look for a few moments at the reasons why Merino sheep are not as highly esteemed as they were fourteen years ago or more. At that time as he says, "Every man of common means had to have a Merino ram," and every man was anxious to embark in raising sheep, and what was the result? An over-production as might be expected, and their price fell. He says that the price of wool and mutton have not changed. The price of mutton may not have changed, but the price of wool has changed. Twelve or fourteen years ago you could get ninety cents or one dollar per pound for wool, and now you can get from forty to forty-fivecents per pound for washed wool, and from thirty to thirty-five cents for unwashed, on occasions when you can get more. A farmer in this town about two and a half years ago bought about four hundred sheep. This winter he sold two hundred of them, and probably he did not find them as profitable as he expected to. Your correspondent says farmers cannot afford to deliver their milk at the cheese factories for three cents per quart. I beg leave to differ from him. I have the authority of the President of the St. Albans Cheese Factory in saying that a man who has ten cows can rely upon averaging one hundred dollars per month from them. A cheese factory generally runs five months and that would make the handsome sum of five hundred dollars, or an average of fifty dollars per cow. Then we can add the value of the calves, which are worth six dollars apiece when four weeks old. If we make the milk into butter we shall receive about thirty-five dollars for it. We received fifty dollars for milk at the cheese factory—fifteen dollars difference in favor of the latter. If a farmer has a farm of one hundred acres he can easily keep ten cows, which will net him five hundred dollars per year; and what can he do to make more in one year? We should remember that if we run our cheese factories for five months we still have seven months to make our butter, and we can make something during that time. He says that we can do better by keeping a few cows and giving the rest of our fodder to sheep. We can feed six sheep on the feed of one cow, and one cow is worth to us fifty dollars per year. Suppose each sheep to yield four lbs. of wool per year, which, sold at fifty cents per pound would make twelve dollars and twenty cents. If they all had lambs, which you sell at four dollars apiece, you get thirty-six dollars and twenty cents as the product of six sheep, or thirteen dollars and eighty cents less than the product of one cow. "Figures won't lie," as the saying is.

I am glad that cheese factories are being extended and that where they are established they give good satisfaction, and I hope they will continue to be established, and that we shall continue to establish them. Farmers, work on; you have nothing to discourage you, and I hope you will establish a cheese factory, or a grange or farmers' club in every town. Then work on, for you certainly have nothing to discourage you when you compare your condition with that of the farmers of the West. M. A. H.

For the Maine Farmer.

Notes on Veterinary Matters.

Remedy for Ringworm in Cattle.

In answer to the enquiry of your correspondent, Mr. F. A. Fitch, in regard to a remedy for ringworm on cattle, I would say, let him mix a large table spoonful of flower of sulphur with the meal or shorts with which he feeds his cow, twice or three times for a couple of weeks, and bathe the parts affected a few times with a wash made by dissolving two ounces of carbolic soap in a quart of warm water, and he will find a certain remedy for humors of the skin.

Treatment for Lampas.

An old stable keeper, who has had the care of horses for forty years, finds the best remedy for lampas, is to rub the gums of the affected animal with fine salt or carbolic acid diluted with water, say five drops of acid to one ounce of water. If the gums are much swollen prick them slightly with a sharp instrument, and let them bleed a little. These remedies will prove much less painful than searing with a hot iron, as is sometimes practiced, and are equally as efficacious. A merciful man will be merciful to his beast and will cause the poor brute as little suffering as possible. In the early period of surgery, many cruel remedies were practiced to relieve diseases both of men and brutes. I have a neighbor, who less than forty years since, from taking cold in a lacerated hand was attacked with lockjaw. The remedy applied was a strip of cotton batting, saturated in spirits of turpentine laid along the spine and ignited. The man being of an iron constitution, after several weeks suffering from the severe burning he received, recovered.

Brunswick. T. S. M.

For the Maine Farmer.

Look to the Record.

The legislative correspondent of Gov. Dingley's Lewiston *Journal* says, "that the Governor's suggestion was that the Report (of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture) be condensed, if it could be done without injury to the public interest." Now the suggestion was no such thing. Just what the Governor did suggest was this:—we copy the exact words—"a smaller number of copies, of less than half its present size, and paper covers." Such were the *suggestions*.

Again: "*They* do not think it necessary for the Secretary to employ a stenographer." Is it necessary for our Courts to employ stenographers at a cost of $4000 per year, to report the picayune cases which consume four-fifths of the court time?

The Augusta correspondent of the Portland *Press* writes as follows: "A well known farmer who attended the agricultural meeting here, complains that the remarks of those who defended the policy of the Governor were not reported. He insists that he made remarks decidedly in that direction." Will not that well known farmer "*give his name?*" The effort to manufacture an impression that the defenders of the Governor's policy were not reported, is all bosh. It smells of *paper covers*. If the Governor is so "friendly to the farmers," pray tell us, where in either of his messages, does that *friendship* appear?

A REPUBLICAN FARMER.

For the Maine Farmer.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Meteorological Observations.

An abstract of the Meteorological Observations taken at the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, for the month of January, 1875, by Prof. M. C. FERNALD.

Lat. 44° 53' 10" N. Lon. 68° 38' 57" W.
Altitude above the sea, 134 feet.

Mean temperature,	8.22
Maximum "	32.6
Minimum "	—22.5
Mean of warmest day, (29th.)	25.9
Mean of coldest day, (20th.)	—5.9
Mean per centage of cloudiness,	.47
Am't rain or melted snow in guage,	2.00in.
Am't of snow,	19.7in.

Direction and force of winds:—N. W. & W., .79; S. W. & S., .06; S. E. & E., .04; N. E. & N., .20.

Mean height of barometer in inches,	29.938
Maximum " "	30.397
Minimum " "	29.212

Mean force of vapor sufficient to sustain a column of mercury in height, .056in.
Mean humidity of the atmosphere, .79

Mean temperature for the month of January for 1869, 18.37; 1870, 22.35; 1871, 13.34; 1872, 17.45; 1873, 15.01; 1874, 19.28; 1875, 8.22. The mean temperature of the month of January for the last six years is 17.63.

It will be perceived that January, 1875, was 9.41 colder than this mean temperature, and 11.06 colder than January, 1874.

Abstract of Meterological observations taken at Cushing, (Lat. 44° N.; Lon. 69° W.; altitude above the sea, 175 feet), during the month of January, 1875:

Mean temperature,		8.37
Maximum "	(9th. 2 P. M.)	31.50
Minimum "	(24th. 7 A. M.)	14.00
Mean of warmest day, (29th.)		25.33
Mean of coldest day, (1st.)		4.00

Mean per cent. of cloudiness, .46
Amount of rain and melted snow in guage, in inches, 1.90
Amount of snow in guage, in inches, 18.50
Mean force of winds, 3.10.
Direction of winds: N. W. & W., .74; S. W. & S., .02; S. E. & E., 22; N. E. & N., .02. R.

The past month has been unusually cool for January—the thermometer standing below zero eleven mornings at sunrise, the

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Feb. 13, 1875.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

$3.00 IN ADVANCE, OR $2.50 IF NOT PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DATE OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Postage Free to all Subscribers.

☞ All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for moneys remitted by him.

☞ A subscriber desiring to change his post office direction or to discontinue his paper, must communicate to us the *name of the office to which it has previously been sent*, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Collectors' Notices.

Mr. C. S. AYER is now calling upon our subscribers in Lincoln County.

Mr. A. D. FOSTER, of Lakeville, is our authorized agent for Nova Scotia, and will call upon our subscribers in that Province.

Mr. W. S. NOYES, of Saco, will call upon our subscribers in York Co. during the winter.

MR. S. N. TABER is now calling upon our subscribers in West Kennebec.

Particular Notice to Subscribers.

We take pleasure in acknowledging a very prompt and general response to our appeal to delinquent subscribers, for which they will, one and all, please accept our thanks. But we are in receipt of letters from a large number, who have been unable to avail themselves of our offer, within the date fixed, and desiring us to extend the time in which to make payment of arrearages. This we have decided to do, and accordingly give notice, that all subscribers who will remit us the amount already due, and one year in advance, at the rate of two dollars per annum, *on or before the fifteenth day of February*, 1875, shall be entitled to the advantage of our previous offer. And our Agents are instructed to settle with delinquent subscribers upon these terms.

Concerning Life.

A person who has avoided excesses and has otherwise taken proper care of himself, arrives at the golden period or prime of life when he is forty years of age. From helpless infancy he has gradually ascended until now, when he reaches a plain, the only one he finds in life's journey, the balance of it being either ascending or descending. Along this plain he travels for twenty years, or about two-sevenths of the allotted years of man. During these twenty years his matured strength of constitution renders him almost impervious to the attacks of disease, while experience has given strength to his judgment and force and vigor to his mind. All his functions, both physical and mental, are now in their highest degree of perfection, and it is during this period that he, if ever, assumes entire mastery over himself, and if life is not now made a success, it never will be. If he engages in business pursuits, it is now that he reaps the harvest sown in former years, and builds up a competence on the foundation laid in early manhood. If he is a professional man, it is during this period that his greatest deeds are performed and his greatest victories won. It is during this period that the statesman is most trusted, the clergyman most beloved, the physician most respected, the lawyer most successful and the poet most inspired. During these twenty years, if there is but little growth, there is still less decay, and this period is attended by many gratifications and numberless enjoyments.

Having crossed this pleasant plain and reached the age of sixty, the critical period is arrived at. This is the great turn of life which lies athwart our pathway like a viaduct. If this is safely crossed the way leads by a gentle declivity to the valley of old age, but the covering is fragile, and whether it shall bend or break depends largely on the degree of care with which it is trodden. The traveler is here waylaid by many enemies such as rheumatism, apoplexy, paralysis, heart disease and gout, which often thrust him from the path, but if he has previously well girded up his loins and provided himself with a suitable staff he can generally pass along in safety and defy these numerous foes.

The great turn of life leads either into a prolonged walk down gentle slopes and through peaceful scenes, or into the grave. The powers of life having reached their utmost expansion and having remained so during a score of years, must now begin to either close like flowers at sunset or break down at once. An injudicious stimulant, a single excitement, may force it beyond its strength, while a careful supply of props and the withdrawal of everything that tends to force a plant, will sustain it in beauty and vigor until night has fully set in.

These thoughts and suggestions apply to the ordinary course of life. There are persons whose powers, like hot house flowers, are prematurely developed, reach maturity at thirty and begin to decline at forty, but such cases are exceptional and in no wise impair the rule. He who grows till forty, flourishes till sixty, crosses safely the viaduct at the turn and takes the long walk to the valley of old age, has had all there is of life here below and goes down to the grave "like a shock of corn fully ripe for the harvest." The life of man finds its parallel in all animate and inanimate Nature. In all the endless variety of animals and plants there is the period of growth and development, followed by a period when there seems to be neither development nor decay, and then a period of decay. Life therefore was intended to be one harmonious round, but in the life of man the harmony is too often broken in consequence of a disregard of the laws of life. In order to pass safely through these several periods of life to the valley of old age, there are certain conditions to be complied with and the human wrecks we see all along life's journey indicate how little regard is paid to these conditions. Intemperance both in eating and drinking, indulging in the use of narcotics and excesses of various kinds, are the breakers upon which human life is most commonly wrecked. These dangers lie all along our pathway and each and all of them should be manfully resisted.

We were speaking more particularly of the foes which beset man at the turning period in life. The powers of life now begin to decay and his ability to resist the various forms of disease peculiar to this period, is comparatively lessened. He may have indulged to a certain extent in the use of alcoholic and narcotic stimulants with seeming impunity, but he can do so no longer. If he would avoid an attack of the now frequent and terrible disease, apoplexy, he must give up his late suppers, his stimulating beverages and his narcotics and substitute a plain, simple diet taken at seasonable hours, and avoid undue excitement of every kind. Business cares should be relaxed to the extent that the mind and body may have all needed repose. By adopting this course, the chances for crossing this viaduct which lies athwart the pathway of every man's life when he reaches three score years, will be greatly improved, and in most cases absolutely insured.

☞ We regret to learn of the death of Thomas H. Little, A. M., Superintendent of the Wisconsin Institute for the education of the blind, which took place on the 4th inst. When the institution was burned last summer, he suffered a severe injury in endeavoring to save a pupil, which so reduced him that he sunk under an attack of pneumonia, after a few days' sickness.

Mr. Little was the oldest son of Thomas Little, Esq., the present city treasurer of Augusta. He graduated at Bowdoin in the class of '55, and after a year or two of teaching gave attention to the education of the blind, in Ohio and Louisiana, and finally in the institution at Janesville, which he managedwith rare success for about 12 years.

He leaves a widow and four young children. The deceased had an insurance of $10,000 on his life.

CITY NEWS AND GOSSIP. Thurston, the driver of the stage from Weeks' Mills to this city, got one of his horses into the deep snow Thursday morning, and in extricating him the horse was killed.——John S. Sayward, Esq., formerly of this city, has recently been here on a visit.——H. H. Harvey has just patented a bush hammer which he proposes to manufacture and which is highly spoken of by stone masons.——Over two hundred persons were present at the Ladies Social Aid at Meonian Hall Thursday evening, and all seemed to enjoy themselves. There was music and dancing.——The lecture of Rev. A. C. Herrick Friday evening, was a plain, unvarnished story of what the speaker saw and heard while he journeyed through Egypt and the Holy Land.——The new vowelized index to the volumes in the office of Register of Deeds is completed and bound, and proves a great improvement over the old method.——The New England Directory has just been issued from the press and Mr. Chas. A. Brown is delivering copies to subscribers on the Kennebec. It is a valuable work for reference.——Mr. B. F. Morse who resides on Grove street, received his first intelligence of the late fire which destroyed his carriage shop, from the Kennebec *Journal* two hours after the fire occurred.——Monday and Tuesday were arctic days, the mercury remaining below zero during nearly 48 consecutive hours. Monday morning it was 12 below and Tuesday 15 below.——There is to be a grand "hop" at the Augusta House on Tuesday evening next.——Mrs. Cleaves, wife of Nathan Cleaves, Esq., representative from Portland, died very suddenly at the Augusta House about 4 o'clock Monday. She was a daughter of Judge Howard of Portland. ——The boarders at the Mansion House are to give a masquerade ball at Granite Hall. ——Two of Dow and Storer's teams ran away Monday morning. A smashed up pung was the consequence.——The County Commissioners are holding a session at the Court House.——Daniel H. Reynolds, a printer, died at the residence of his father on Bangor street Tuesday afternoon, of consumption. His health began to fail a year ago.——Ex-Governor Coburn was in the city Tuesday and is in apparent good health.——Mercury at 15 below zero Wednesday morning.——The old Board of Fish Commissioners has been re-appointed.—— Dr. Hampton E. Hill has sold his house and business to Dr. Bolan of New Sharon, and will move to Biddeford.——The lecture at Granite Hall by Mrs. Woolson was attended by a large and intelligent audience. The lecture was finely conceived and gracefully delivered.——The Opera of Martha is the next entertainment in the Library Course. It is appointed for Friday evening.——Several members of the Legislature attended the funeral of General Hersey, Wednesday. ——A husband and father living at the north end went home intoxicated Monday night and turned his wife out of doors and abused his children. This is the chivalry of drunkenness.

A PLEA FOR THE POOR. We are impelled by a sense of duty to call the attention of the charitable and benevolent people of our city to the large number of suffering poor in our midst, and the necessity of making immediate provision for their relief. We need not remind them that the winter is unusually severe and that all kinds of business which gives employment to laboring men, is almost entirely suspended. We hear of cases of want and absolute suffering for lack of food and fuel almost every day, and while considerable is being done in the way of affording relief by individuals, there is no general associated effort being put forth such as is needed to meet the emergency. The only strictly charitable society which we know of in the city is limited in its scope and is not liberally supplied with funds, and though it is doing all it can in the way of relieving suffering, it can reach but a small number of the cases needing help. It is of no use to talk of the alms house now, for that institution is already well filled, and the cases to which we now refer are not, strictly speaking, alms house cases, but of persons who with a little assistance to bridge over the next few weeks, will find themselves all right again. We respectfully suggest that the subject be taken up in the several churches of the city next Sunday, it should not be put off a day longer, and that committees be appointed and furnished with means to make a thorough canvass of the city and search out and relieve all cases of suffering for food, clothing or fuel, and make weekly reports to their several societies, of their doings. We simply suggest this plan although it may not be the best one, and any method which promises to accomplish the result will meet with our hearty approval and co-operation. But what is done should be done quickly.

☞ The wooden building on the west side of Water street, next north of the railroad bridge was burned Saturday morning. The building was occupied by B. F. Morse and Co., carriage manufacturers and Thomas & Brann carriage repairers. Quite a number of carriages were stored in Morse's part, at the risk of the owners; some were saved, but W. E. Potter, John D'Arthenay, and others, lost carriages. The following are the losses: A & W. Sprague, on building, $800; no insurance. Morse & Co., carriages, tools, books, &c., $1,500; no insurance. Owners of carriages, $1,500; no insurance. Thomas & Co., $100; no insurance. Total loss $3,900.

The fire is supposed to be incendiary. When the fire was first discovered the flames were bursting out of the northwest corner of the second story. Thomas & Brann were burned out only a few weeks ago.

☞ We learn that the Maine Central Directors, at their annual meeting in Portland last week, voted to change the running of trains back to the old time, that is: the Pullman leaving Boston at 8 P. M., instead of midnight, and a train on the Maine Central leaving Portland at 5 P. M., instead of 8, as now. The time of the Pullman train on the Maine Central also to be put back to the old time. This change is to go into effect on or before the middle of March, the time to be decided by the Superintendents. The Eastern Directors were not present, but there is no doubt they will favor the proposed change, and, all things considered, it will be about as well for the people of the Kennebec valley as the present arrangement. The Pullman train will not accommodate quite as well, but the evening train from Portland will arrive at a much more satisfactory hour.

☞ The Bangor Minstrels drew a full house at Granite Hall Tuesday evening and were cordially greeted. The performance was of a high order and elicited frequent outbursts of applause. Andrews' Orchestra of eight pieces furnished the instrumental part of the entertainment, and every one was loud in praise of their artistic performances. Everything was new and fresh about the entire performance, in this respect contrasting favorably with many of the threadbare minstrel troupes which travel through the country. The proceeds of the concert after paying expenses, are devoted to charitable objects in this city, for which the generous performers are entitled to the warmest thanks of our citizens.

☞ The Lewiston *Journal* publishes a summary of the city business. From the recapitulation it appears that Lewiston has eighteen manufacturing corporations. Ten are cotton mills and five are woolen mills. The number of spindles is 285,188. The capital employed amounts to $7,750,000. The number of women employed is 4570 and of men 3074. The value of manufactured products in Lewiston in 1874 was $10,000,000. The yearly production of cotton and woolen goods is 40,000,000 yards.

☞ The Civil Rights bill, which has just passed the lower branch of Congress, in most of its features, is identical with the one for which Charles Sumner labored during the closing years of his life, and which he committed to the care of his personal and political friends when he died. He contended that equal rights should be enjoyed by every citizen of the republic, and that in order to secure them a tribunal must be created to which any person who is wronged or deprived of such rights on account of race or color, or previous condition, could apply and receive justice. The Sumner bill, which was very brief and sweeping, was passed by the Senate during last session and sent down to the House, where it has since remained. The essential difference between this bill and the one which has passed the House is, that the latter does not impose mixed schools upon every community, although equal educational facilities are guaranteed in separate schools. The omission of the mixed school provision in our judgment is wise, and the bill is much better without it. So strong is the social prejudice against mixed schools in many localities, that if the law could be evaded in no other way, the inhabitants would neglect to raise means to support public schools of any kind, and thus the law would become practically of no effect. By the terms of this bill the negro is guaranteed all his rights in respect to educational privileges, although something is yielded to the social prejudices of the southern people which it will take them many years to outgrow. It is probable, too, that this feeling is not confined exclusively to the southern people. This social prejudice exists more or less in every community where those can be found who do not wish their children to associate on terms of equality with colored children, or attend at the same school. This prejudice cannot be removed by legislation, although if let alone it may die out of itself. Opposition to it will only make it stronger.

☞ We are sorry to learn of the financial embarrassment of the C. P. Kimball Manufacturing Company of Portland, in consequence of which C. P. Kimball, Esq., will lose his whole fortune. Mr. Kimball for a man of his age, has had many ups and downs in life, but for the past few years has prospered and was supposed to be wealthy. He was a member of the firm of Kimball Brothers, selling agents in Boston, and this firm is said to have engaged in land speculations in the suburbs of that city, which was the cause of their failure and of the embarrassment of the C. P. Kimball Company of Portland. The Company in Portland has been suffering for some time from the depression in the carriage business. Five or six years ago it entered upon the manufacture of jump seats, which were quite the rage for a time and had a large sale. But the demand suddenly slackened, and the company was left with $40,000 worth of carriages on its hands. Drawbacks like these of course crippled it, and so it was ill prepared to stand the shock which came upon it by the failure of the Boston concern which owed it heavily. We sincerely hope that Mr. Kimball will relieve himself and that he may re-enter upon a prosperous career.

THE SOMERSET DEFALCATION. The latest report concerning Columbus Steward, the delinquent treasurer of Somerset county, is that he is at Conway, N. H. The Somerset Reporter says the affair causes much regret among his political opponents. Undue pressure from his creditors is supposed to be the cause. So far $3000 cannot be accounted for. The books and vouchers are being thoroughly examined, however, and the parties visited who are supposed to have paid in money which may not have been credited. The deficit of $2000 was discovered while the auditor and the new county treasurer were engaged in looking up the assets and liabilities of the county, Mr. Steward was immediately notified, and replied that he would appear and explain the next day, but, instead, left the country, sending a letter back to his bondsmen.

☞ James L. Perham, son of Azel and Elvira (Bowker) Perham, died in Woodstock Saturday morning, at the age of 32 years. (born Oct. 3, 1842). Though a mere boy at the breaking out of the rebellion, he was among the first to enlist from the town of Woodstock, and served for nearly two years in Company G of the tenth Maine regiment, when he was discharged for disability. He was a faithful soldier, always at his post of duty, and never shrank or faltered in the hour of peril. But the fatiguing marches and constant exposure were too much for a constitution not naturally strong, and he was attacked with rheumatism, from which he never recovered. Since his discharge he has been an invalid, and much of the time a great sufferer. His limbs became so much contorted that he had but little use of them, and could only dress and feed himself with great difficulty. The muscles of his face were also contorted so that he had an impediment in his speech, and bore but little resemblance to his former self. He was one of the many wrecks of our late civil war, and there should be no regrets that he has at last found rest.

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Hon. W. L. Putnam of Portland, is writing a biographical sketch of the late Hon. Geo. Evans, to be read at the next meeting of the Maine Historical Society. Mr. Putnam was the law partner of the distinguished subject of his biography during his last days, and is well qualified for the task which he has undertaken.

Several of the citizens of Cape Elizabeth and of Portland, are asking for the Maine Historical Society to have a field day on the Cape next summer, and at Black Point, Scarboro'. They propose to charter a small steamer to touch at the ferry, Simonton Cove, Richmond Island and Black Pond, better known as Prout's Neck.

☞ By reference to Legislative proceedings it will be seen that both branches have refused to repeal the death penalty. This result is not entirely unexpected, although we had some hopes that it might be otherwise. A careful examination of the vote discloses the gratifying fact that the more intelligent, thoughtful and progressive men in both branches voted in favor of repeal. The world does not move backward, and the vote on this question shows that its repeal is only a question of time, and the impending judicial murders in our State, which have now become inevitable, will only serve to hasten it.

☞ We learn that on Saturday night, January 30, the store owned and occupied by C. H. Tibbetts of Easton, was burned, together with about $10,000 worth of goods, 300 bushels of grain, and a nice set of carpenter's tools valued at $150. Mr. Tibbetts succeeded in saving about $700 worth of the goods. The fire originated in the chamber of the store, but in what way is not known. An application for insurance had been made a short time previous but the policy had not been received.

☞ The painful intelligence has been received of the death at New Orleans, of Mrs. Sophia wife of Capt. Charles H. Badger. Mrs. Badger had been in delicate health for several years and expired on Thursday last at the age of 47 years. Capt. Badger is the son of the late Capt. Nathaniel Badger of Brunswick, and has many friends in this State whose warmest sympathy he will have in his bereavement.

☞ The Sandy River Cheese Co. has been manufacturing cheese four years, and has made seventy tons, running 127 days each year. On the average the milk of 155 cows has been used. The cheese has sold for $300 a ton.

Editor's Table.

☞ The Reading Club and Handy Speaker, edited by Geo. M. Baker, is a collection of articles in prose and poetry, for Readings and Recitations. It is published by Lee & Shepard, and for sale by Horace North.

☞ We have received from T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Publishers, Philadelphia, the third volume of the new edition of the works of Mrs. Southworth, entitled "How He Won Her," being a sequel to "Fair Play." Bound in Morocco cloth; price, $1.75.

THE ISLAND OF FIRE: or A Thousand Years of the Old Northmen's Home.—874–1874. By Rev. P. C. Headly. Boston: Lee & Shepard; for sale in Augusta by Horace North.

This volume was suggested by a contribution to the Cornhill Magazine upon Iceland, in connection with the then approaching Millenial Jubilee. The author has here compiled all the information of this interesting locality which can be found in books of travel, explorations, &c., which is presented in a very attractive form, with illustrations.

☞ From Bailey & Noyes, Portland, we have received number 430 and 431 of Harper's Library of Select Novels, entitled respectively, "Old Myddleton's Money," and "At the Sign of the Silver Flagon." We have read these two works and have been entertained with both of them. The former is one of the best novels of the season.

AFTER DARK, and Other Stories. By Wilkie Collins. New York: Harper & Brothers; for sale in Portland by Bailey & Noyes.

This new edition of the works of Wilkie Collins is dedicated by the author to the American people. This volume contains about 500 pages and eight of the author's popular stories.

☞ We have received through Bailey & Noyes another volume of the Household Edition of the works of Charles Dickens. This volume is "A Tale of Two Cities," and is founded upon fact. The condition of the French people before and during the revolution, is here graphically described. The work is neatly printed and bound, and contains several illustrations.

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER. The January number of this valuable journal is an exceptionally good one, containing much heretofore unpublished genealogical and historical matter. The Register has an important field, which is peculiarly its own, that of working up the history of New England families, and of publishing diaries and journals of events which transpired in the early years, and thereby preserving their contents for the use of the historian. It is published quarterly at No. 18 Somerset street, Boston, at $3.00 a year.

THE LAST JOURNALS of David Livingstone, in Central Africa, from 1865 to his Death, By Horace Waller, F. R. G. S. New York: Harper & Brothers; sold in Portland by Bailey & Noyes.

This book needs no special introduction to the reader. When Stanley returned to England in 1872, Dr. Livingstone entrusted to his care a large diary, sealed up, consigned to the keeping of his daughter, Miss Agnes Livingstone. After the Doctor's death the package was opened and found to contain the notes which her father made during his travels, previous to the time that Stanley found him. This volume is made up of these notes, prefaced with a few pages on the nature of these journals. The work is finely illustrated.

☞ Land Agent Burleigh says that about 400,000 acres of timber lands remain to be guarded and overseen until payments are made for the same or the lands sold and money received therefor. A slow but constant success has attended the settlement of our public domain. About forty townships have been so far settled, incorporation into towns or organization into plantations having already taken place. Others will soon follow, 541,644 acres having been thus far actually taken up by about 4000 families, 20,450 souls. The number of acres thus settled or taken up during the past year for which new certificates have been granted is 23,826 and during the same time 19,238 acres have been conveyed to these whose previous contracts had been fulfilled. The number of acres remaining unsold and unsettled in the townships thus set apart is about 146,000. The settling lands of Maine are among the richest in New England and if properly cared for the enterprise of peopling them must prove successful. The land agent is confident that the services of the department cannot at present be dispensed with.

THE SWEDISH COLONY. In his annual report, the Land Agent, Hon. P. P. Burleigh says the Sweedish Colony introduced into the State in 1870 continues to thrive, and gives satisfactory evidence of success, and the colonists are becoming contented and happy in their new home. A few families have been added the past year. Crops have been abundant and the colinists fortunate in gathering them. Some who went to the Western States have returned, satisfied that they can do better here. During the past season marked improvements have been made. About 150 farms in all have thus far been taken up by as many different families and some 2,000 acres brought under cultivation, the whole population now actually on the territory being about 600. Besides this, quite a number of Swedes have gone into other parts of the State. The colony now embraces the entire township of New Swenen, every available lot in which has been taken up, and also parts of Woodland, Lyndon and Perham.

☞ The trustees under the will of the late Arabella Rice giving $30,000 in trust for a free library for the use of the people of Kittery, have organized as follows: Daniel Austin, President; Wm. H. Y. Hackett, Secretary; Daniel Austin, Ichabod Goodwin, Wm. H. Y. Hackett, E. C. Spinney, John Wentworth, Trustees. The $30,000 has been paid by E. Rice, executor; and Daniel Austin, E. C. Spinney and John Wentworth has been appointed a committee to enquire if a suitable building can be obtained (upon the condition of Miss Rice's will) for the accommodation of the contemplated library.

☞ During the past year all the jails in the State have been inspected. The report shows the most of them to be in a good condition. Four of the jails have workshops in connection with them, and it is proposed to construct others the coming year. Piscataquis county has no jail; those in Hancock and Aroostook are in a very poor condition. The Commissioners are satisfied with the result of employing prison help, and think the effect salutary to the prisoners, as well as profitable to the State. During the past year there were 1779 commitals to the State jails, 152 of whom were females.

☞ Hon. Horatio King, ex-Postmaster General, was married in Washington on Monday to Miss Isabella G. Osborne of Auburn, N. Y. Hon. George Bancroft gave away the bride. Mr. King was a native of Paris in this State, and at one time in company with Senator Hamlin published a paper in that town. Mr. King's first wife died at the Maine Insane Hospital three or four years ago.

THE SCANDAL TRIAL. There have been no new developments in the Beecher-Tilton trial since our last issue. The examination of Theodore Tilton the plaintiff, has occupied the entire week and still continues. The cross-examination has been very thorough and exhaustive, but without apparent effect to discredit the direct testimony of the witness.

☞ The Washington *Chronicle* in a severe article denounces John W. Forney, the founder of that paper, and calls upon him to come home and explain how he could denounce others for corruption after he had pocketed twenty-five thousand dollars of the Pacific Mail plunder.

Maine Legislature.

The Legislature is now busily at work, and already looking forward to an early adjournment. The report of the Constitutional Commission may cause some discussion, and perhaps will delay the adjournment for a few days, but should this be readily disposed of they may adjourn next week.

In the Senate Thursday the annual report of the Bank Examiner was received. A bill was reported from the Judiciary Committee fixing imprisonment for life as the punishment for murder and arson. "Legislation inexpedient" was reported on order relating to the course of study in the normal schools. Order in relation to the pay of Senators for travel was amended, so as to follow the rule laid down in the constitution, allowing pay for travel to and from legislature once in each session, and then passed.

In the House a bill relating to intoxicating liquors was reported. Legislation reported inexpedient in relation to repealing the law of '73 in relation to free high schools. An order in relation to establishing the salaries of officers of the State Prison, was passed. The order calling upon the Secretary of State for a statement of expenditures the past five years, was referred to the Committee on ways and means.

In the Senate Friday, the bill for the protection of bonds was amended and passed to be engrossed. Bill to enforce the collection of taxes from railroad companies was reported. Bill to repeal the act of 1874, relating to idiotic persons, was indefinitely postponed.

In the House the resolve in favor of Knox county for expenses in the Robbins trial, passed to be engrossed. Senate order relating to mileage was laid on the table, and a new order relating to the same subject was introduced. The compulsory education bill, with amendments, was laid on the table.

Saturday in the Senate, the bill to provide in part for the expenditures of government, was passed to be engrossed. Also resolves in favor of the Indian delegation.

In the House, the former vote passing the bill to repeal the act of 1874, relative to idiotic persons, was insisted upon. Bill to incorporate the Presque Isle & St. John River Railroad Co., was reported in a new draft from the Committee on Railroads, with the recommendation that it pass. Also, from the same committee, bill to extend the time five years for the completion of the Penobscot Bay & River Railroad. Bill relating to seizure of liquors *in transit*, passed to be engrossed. Resolve for the purchase of the Maine State Year Book, was passed finally.

Monday in the Senate, the bill to extend the time for the location and completion of the Georges Valley Railroad was tabled, after the adoption of an amendment providing that anything in the original charter prohibiting the State assessing an additional tax on the company, shall not extend or apply to the present act.

In the House a bill was reported in relation to marriage and its solemnization. Thursday next was assigned as the time for the third reading of the bill to extend the time for the location and completion of the Penobscot Bay and River Railroad.

In the Senate Tuesday, the bill to abolish capital punishment came up and was submitted to a yea and nay vote, without discussion. The bill was refused a passage by a tie vote, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Corthell, Cutler, Emery, Foss, Foster, French, Haskell, Kent, Morrison, Palmer, Prescott, Rounds, Stevens, Swasey, Webb—15.

Nays—Messrs. Atwood, Campbell, Cross, Cushing, Dyer, Goold, Hall, Hanson, Hinckley, Holbrook, Hyde, Lord, Richardson, Russell, Thurlough—15.

The bill to extend the time for locating and completing the Georges Valley Railroad, was passed.

In the House the bill for compulsory education received a passage. A motion to indefinitely postpone the bill was defeated by a vote of 95 to 26. Bill to authorize the building of a railroad from Lewiston to Augusta, was passed.

The Agricultural Committee has voted to report in favor of giving the State College $24,500. This is $3000 less than the sum asked for by the Trustees, but the committee deemed the sum voted as sufficient for the wants of the institution the ensuing year.

The committee on Towns voted to incorporate the town of Woodville, in Penobscot county.

Among the bills signed by the Governor are these: Authorizing the Continental Mills to reduce the par value of its stock and to issue new shares; to authorize the city of Bangor to aid the construction of a railroad into Aroostook county; to incorporate the Maine State Pure Blood Jersey Stock Association; to incorporate the town of Medway; to incorporate the Unity Park Association; to incorporate the Menhaden Mutual Fire and Marine Insurance Company; to incorporate the North Wales Slate Company; to incorporate the town of Talmadge, in the county of Washington.

The committee on Banks and Banking will report in favor of giving a charter to the People's Loan and Building Association of Richmond.

The Judiciary Committee will report a bill to abolish imprisonment for debt. The committee have given the matter extended consideration, and have not yet fully agreed upon the details. The committee expect to clear their docket Thursday night. This is the hardest working committee in the Legislature, nearly half of the business of the session passing through their hands. They have worked almost night and day, and their action has been intelligent and liberal.

In the Senate Wednesday an act to enforce the collection of taxes against railroads, was tabled. A resolve appropriating $24,500 for the Agricultural College was reported. Bills were reported to incorporate the Andover Dairy Association, the Canton and Dixfield cheese factory, the North Livermore cheese campany, and the Wayne cheese factory association. A bill was reported to amend the pension act so that no soldier or sailor who enlisted in the war of 1861, who may become dependent on any city or town shall on that account be considered a pauper or subject to disfranchisement. An act additional to an act establishing the Portland and Rochester railroad company was amended and passed.

In the House the capital punishment question was discussed elaborately. The bill to abolish was defeated—69 to 61.

☞ The following are the more important features of the bill which has been prepared by the sub-committee on southern affairs, and which has been presented to the House. The first section provides for a reenactment of the Ku-Klux act, which authorizes the President to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*, when such a procedure in his judgment is necessary by the prevalence of violence and disorder. The second section will provide for the appointment of deputy marshals and supervisors of election with specific authority to make arrests in cases where intimidation is practiced, and where any interference is made with the polling of the vote of this section. It will also provide that the ballots cast at each polling place, shall be counted by the election officers the night following the day of election, and at the place at which the polling took place. The third section will declare it to be a high misdemeanor for persons to interfere with election officers or the ballot box during the holding of an election, and will prescribe severe penalties in such cases, and also in cases where men cross the line from one State to another to interfere with elections. The sub-committee believe the State laws provide the authority for correcting all other wrongs not provided for in their proposed bill.

KENNEBEC COUNTY ITEMS. The young ladies' literary club of Winthrop met at Miss Verne Kempton's, Tuesday, Feb. 2d. The following officers were elected: President, Clara Keene; Sec. and Treas., Ada Jewell; Reporter, Etta Snow. Next meeting at M. Louise Warren's, Friday, Feb. 12th.——Mr. Spear, who was so seriously injured last week by the explosion at the torpedo factory in Gardiner, is quite comfortable, and recovering from his injuries as rapidly as could be expected. It is thought that his eyesight will be restored.——Thirty of the farmers and others interested in that vicinity have petitioned the Legislature for an act of incorporation for a cheese factory to be located at Wayne village.——The Fayette Mutual Fire Insurance Company at its annual meeting chose the following officers: President, P. F. Pike; Secretary and Treasurer, B. R. Woodsum; Directors, F. A. Chase, B. R. Woodsum, J. H. Sturtevant.——The wife of Mr. J. S. Dudley of West Gardiner slipped upon the ice on Thursday last, and falling at a disadvantage, broke both bones of one of her legs just above the ankle. ——A short time ago at Winthrop a family noticed the smell of burning cotton in their room, and on looking for the cause discovered quite a volume of smoke issuing from a small roll of black cotton cloth lying upon the table, which soon burnt into a flame. Upon further investigation it was found that the rays of the sun, passing through a stereoscope, came to a focus on this cloth with sufficient force to ignite it. Subsequently a trial was made with white cloth and failed to develop a blaze.——Hecla Engine Company, of Pittston, are making preparations for a levee, to come off at Jewett's Hall, in that village, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, Feb. 23d and 24th. The object of the entertainment will be to raise funds for the treasury of the company.——Rev. Dr. Webber of Kent's Hill is dangerously ill.——The ordination of Miss Lorenza Haines as pastor of the Universalist church of Hallowell, occurred on Wednesday evening last.——On Sunday afternoon last, a barn was burned on the Wadsworth place, situated on the road leading from East Winthrop to East Readfield. Two horses were saved from the barn; a ton of hay was burned. A widow lady lived in the house on the same lot, which was separate from the barn, and not burnt.

☞ The Constitutional Commission closed its labors as a commission last week, having first committed the work of putting their report in form and submitting it to the Legislature, to a Sub-committee. The Commission was an able one and has done its work well. Some of its recommendations will probably be rejected by the tribunals to which they are yet to be submitted, but we believe that most of them will commend themselves to the good sense of the people of Maine, and we believe they should have a chance to vote upon each and all of them at the next election. The following is a summary of the conclusions adopted by the Commission:

The first amendment abolishes the Executive Council. The duty of counting the votes is placed with the Secretary of State, while the Legislature is required to provide for a proper officer without whose sanction no money can be withdrawn from the State Treasury.

The second, provides that the pardoning power may be exercised either absolutely or conditionally by the Governor, on the advice of heads of State departments, subject to legislative enactment, and that the Governor shall report to the Legislature all cases of reprieve, commutation or pardon of criminals.

The third, introduces a new section, which prohibits the raising of money by towns for any purpose but strictly municipal, except 5 per cent. for railroads, and then only by a two-thirds vote of towns, principal and interest to be paid in twenty years, and that the power to tax corporations and corporate property shall not be surrendered or suspended by any contract or grant to which the State shall be a party.

The fourth and fith, declare that the Governor and State Senators shall be elected by a plurality vote.

The sixth, strikes out the provision in the present constitution which declares that the State shall not interfere with religious societies in electing teachers and pastors.

The seventh, provides for severe penalties for bribery at elections. Persons violating this provision shall be excluded from the right of suffrage perpetually or for a term of years.

The eighth, declares that corporations shall be formed under general laws, and not be created by special acts of the Legislature, except for municipal purposes, and in cases where the objects of the corporation cannot otherwise be attained; and however formed, they shall forever be subject to the general laws of the State.

The ninth amendment abolishes the land office.

The tenth, provides that the State election shall take place on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November (commencing in 1876), instead of the second Monday of September.

The eleventh, provides for the removal of the State Treasurer, Attorney General and county officers by the Governor, for incompetency or malfeasance in office, with suitable restrictions and after a fair hearing, officers thus removed not to be eligible for re-election.

The twelfth, declares that all taxes upon real and personal estate assessed by authority of this State, shall be apportioned and assessed equally according to the first value thereof, and that the Legislature shall never, in any manner, suspend or surrender the power of taxation.

The thirteenth and fourteenth, provides that judges of municipal and police courts, and judges of probate, shall be hereafter appointed by the Governor.

The fifteenth, provides for the apportionment of Representatives to the Legislature in proportion to the population, the number of Representatives to remain as heretofore.

The sixteenth, provides that, commencing in 1876, the State officers shall be elected biennially and hold office two years, and that the Legislature shall also convene biennially.

A NEW HISTORICAL WORK. Mr. David Clapp of Boston, has in press a work entitled "Contributions, Biographical, Genealogical and Historical," by Ebenezer W. Pierce of Freetown, Mass. It will contain genealogies of 21 families, as follows: Barnaby, Bartlett, Booth, Brownett, Caswell, Gardiner, Godfrey, Harlow, Howland, Haskins, Macomber, Pearce, Peirce, Richmond, Rogers, Rounseville, Sheffield, Shelley, Warren, Weaver and Williams.

In the historical part of the volume is given a very minute account of the outfit of soldiers sent out to fight the French and Indians in 1690 and 1692, giving the price of each article, both in arms and equipment, as also of ammunition, as copied from the records of one of the Council of War. Also diaries kept by soldiers in the French and Indian wars, 1755–58. These diaries give accounts of the fall of Col. Ephraim Williams, the chieftain Hendrick and of Lord Howe, by those who were eye witnesses and participants in these battles, and in the language in which these soldiers penned these and other incidents at those times.

The book also gives an account of the course once pursued by the Massachusetts Legislature, that appointed a Moderator for the annual town meeting in Freetown, and annulled all the acts of a town meeting in that town, in which the Moderator declared that anybody and everybody had a right to vote—men, women, boys and girls—those under as well as over twenty-one years of age, and whether paying a tax or not.

The work will contain one thousand octavo pages, and will be a valuable contribution to Massachusetts local history.

☞ The Massachusetts Legislature is investigating expenditures in the publication line. A statement shows that the expense of printing and binding of documents in that State in 1874 was $165,629.02, which is thought to be large. Among the large items are these: Report of State Board of Health, $10,203.93; the Manual, $3,035.41; General Laws, $11,559.75; Agricultural Report, $15,538.74; Sumner Memorial, $9,569.99; Report of Board of Education, $10,062.28. There were 33,000 copies of the records of ballots for Senator last spring, which cost $903.21.

Items of Maine News.

Mrs. Mary M. Thompson, a native of Brunswick, died at Garland on the 15th ult.

A stable on Thornton avenue, Saco, was slightly damaged by fire Friday night.

The opening lecture before the Maine Medical School takes place Thursday, 18th.

Scarlatina has broke out at Tenant's Harbor, and eight children have died of the disease.

Mr. Samuel Thomes of South Harrison, was attacked by a bull last week, and considerably bruised about the head.

A Mrs. Jellilson of Calais has been arrested for stealing money from letters taken from the post office.

Hon. Israel Washburn, Jr., of Portland, has declined the Presidency of Tufts College.

There is a scandal in the Free Baptist church in Biddeford, growing out of improper intimacy between a male and female member.

Dr. F. B. Swasey of Bucksport, was thrown from his sleigh, Thursday week, and broke his leg.

A little son of John Walker of Kezar Falls, died very suddenly the other day. It is thought he was accidentally poisoned.

Mr. F. B. Bailey has received this week his commission as Deputy Collector in the custom house in Calais.

A boy four years old, son of Joseph Steele of Addison Point, was choked to death recently by a bean which passed into his windpipe.

The house and outbuildings belonging to Charles Harding, in Waterford, were burned early Saturday morning. Insured for $600.

David O'Connell has been arrested in Nashua, N. H., for robbing the store of Ward Brothers in Lewiston over a year ago.

General Hersey is the fourth member of the next House of Representatives who has died since the elections.

Rockland harbor is entirely covered with newly formed ice from Owl's Head to Jameson's Point, and beyond.

The South Aroostook Baptist quarterly meeting will hold its next session with the Baptist church in Hodgdon, commencing on Friday, Feb. 12th, at 2 o'clock p. m.

Rev. J. Nason of North Berwick, has tendered his resignation of the pastorate of the Beech Ridge Free Baptist church, to take effect the last of March.

James S. Bowen while standing in a doorway of a house in North Perry, a few days since, was attacked by a wild cat. Mr. B. seized a club and despatched the animal.

The religious society of West Auburn find themselves so reduced by deaths and removals that they are scarcely able to support the gospel without help.

The Markets.

Brighton Cattle Market.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 10.

At market for the current week—Cattle 1029; Sheep and Lambs 6107; Swine 2,500. Number of Western Cattle 1729. Northern Cattle and Working Oxen and Milch Cows, 175. Eastern Cattle.—

BEEF CATTLE.—Prices per 100 lbs. live weight, extra quality $7 50@8 00; first quality $6 75@7 25; second quality $6 25@6 50; third quality $5 12@5 75; poorest grade of coarse Oxen, Bulls, &c., $3 50@5 00.

BRIGHTON HIDES—9@9c ₩ lb.; Brighton Tallow 6@6c ₩ lb.

COUNTRY HIDES—8@8c ₩ lb.; Country Tallow 5@5c ₩ lb.

CALF SKINS—14@15c ₩ lb. Sheep and Lamb Skins $1 25@1 75 each.

The number of Cattle in market from the West was about the same in number of that of one week ago. The quality was better upon an average. There were but few lots of very extra Beeves in market. Prices upon all grades remain unchanged form those of one week ago. On account of the severe cold weather trade did not open so lively as usual, many country butchers not buying until Wednesday. There were a few very extra Rivers Cattle in market, for which holders were asking 11c per lb dressed weight.

WORKING OXEN.—Trade for Working Oxen has been dull. A few pairs each week is all the market requires during the winter months. We quote sales of 3 prs, 6th 7 ft, live weight 3000 lbs, $180 per pair; 1 pr, 6 ft 6 in, 2500 lbs, $140; 1 pr, 6 ft 8 in, 2750 lbs, $160.

STORE CATTLE.—Yearlings $11@$15; two year olds $15@$27; three year olds $22@$43 ₩ head. Many of the small Cattle that are in a fair condition are sold for Beef.

MILCH COWS.—Extra $55@90; ordinary $25@50; Store Cows $18@45 per head. There are but few extra or fancy breed of Cows offered in market for sale, most of them being of an ordinary grade. Prices of Milch Cows do not vary much from week to week. Good Cows sell well at fair prices.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—From the West there was a fair supply, all owned by butchers, costing landed at Brighton from 6@7c per lb. From the North the supply was light, and prices same as last week.

SWINE.—Store Pigs, wholesale 7@8c per lb; retail 8@9c per lb. Fat Hogs 2580 in market; prices 8@8½c per lb live weight.

Wool Market.

BOSTON, Feb. 10.

There continues to be a steady demand for domestic Wool and the business would have been much larger if manufacturers were better supplied with water. The advance in the rates of gold tends to impart a firmer feeling to the market for all fine Wools, as it increases the cost of the Australia Wools now in transit. The sales have been 75,000 lbs Ohio near at hand. The sales have been 75,000 lbs Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces at 53@57½c; 125,000 lbs Michigan at 50@52c; 80,000 lbs Western and mixed fleeces at 48@51c; 50,000 lbs combing and delaine fleece at 49@52c for washed, and 40@46c for unwashed; 250,000 lbs California at 29@38c for spring, and 15 cel; 350,000 lbs Texas and X pulled at 40@42c for fall; 225,000 lbs super and X pulled at 45@50c; most of the Republican members being in the lobby and committee rooms. 54c; 20,000 lbs tub washed at 52½@57c; 45,000 lbs scoured at 45@55c; 21,000 lbs Oregon on private terms; 4000 lbs noils at 30@35c; 5000 lbs Colorado at 25c; 360 lbs Texas at 28c; 1000 lbs mixed Cape and fleeces at 25@40c, and 1000 lbs dead wool at 30c per lb.

Boston Market.

BOSTON, Feb. 10.

FLOUR AND GRAIN—The demand for flour is steady but moderate, and prices remain about the same; we quote:

Western Superfine at $4 00@4 50; common extras at $4 50@5 00; Milwaukie and Minnesota extras at $5 25@6 25; white wheat Ohio, Indiana and Michigan at $5 50@6 50; Illinois at $5 50@7 00; St. Louis at $5 75@8 00 ₩ bbl. Southern flour is quiet at $4 75@8 00 ₩ bbl. for common extras and choice family; and fancy Minnesota at $7 50@9 00 ₩ bbl. Corn is quiet at 85@88c ₩ bush. for mixed and yellow. Oats are firm at 67@71c ₩ bush. for brown and white. Rye 95c@1 00 ₩ bush. Shorts, Fine Feed and Middlings at $28@32 ₩ ton.

PROVISIONS.—Pork is steady; sales at $17 00@17 50 for prime; $21 00@21 50 for mess $22 00@24 00 ₩ bbl. for clear. Beef ranges from $10 50@13 50 mess and extra mess, and $16 00@17 00 ₩ bbl. for family. Lard 14½@15c ₩ lb. for city and Western. Smoked Hams 12½@13c ₩ lb. Butter sells at 25@42c ₩ lb. and Cheese from 12@16½c ₩ lb. as to quality.

PRODUCE.—White Beans remain the same, with a steady demand. We quote mediums at $1 70@1 80; extra pea at $2 20@2 40; and yellow eyes at $5@3 25 per bush. For Potatoes there is a wide range of prices. The sales of Early Rose and Jackson Whites have been at 60@85c per bush, as to quality. Onions have been selling at $2 50 per bbl. Eggs range from 24@26c per dozen, cut with milder weather we look for increased supplies and lower prices. Poultry has been in moderate demand, but prices remain about the same. The sales have ranged from 13@18c ₩ lb, as to quality. Green Apples are dull, and prices remain without improvement. The sales have ranged from $1 25@2 per bbl, as to quality.

HAY—Prices continue to be well sustained with a steady demand. The sales of coarse Eastern and Northern have been at $22@25 for first and $17@20 for medium; and Fine Hay ranges from $15@19 per ton, as to quality. Rye Straw has been selling at $18 per ton.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.

COTTON—Sales——bales—middling uplands $15½.

FLOUR—Sales 7,078 bbls.—State $6 20@5 30; Round Hoop Ohio, $5 10@6 85; Western $4 50@5 50; South ern $5 00@4 75.

WHEAT—Sales 38,500 bush. No. 2 Milwaukie, $1 09 @1 10; No. 3, $1 07½;—; No. 1 Chicago, $1 21@1 31; No. 2, $1 03@1 06; No. 2, Mixed, $1 44; No. 3, $1 50; Winter Red, $1 22@1 23; Amber, $1 24@1 24; No. 1, Iowa, $1 08@1 25; White Michigan, $1 30@1 32; Winter Western, $1 25@1 29.

CORN—Sales 50,000 bushels. Western 81@81.

OATS—Sales 8,500 bushels—Western 68@68.

PORK—Sales 100 bbls. New Mess, $19 50@19 75.

LARD—Steam, 14c; Kettle, 14c.

SUGAR—Refining, 7½@7½; Porto Rico, 7¼@8; Cuba, —@7; Havana White, 9@—.

Gold and Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.

Gold 114@114.

Money 2½@3 per cent.

United States Sixes (coupons) 1881 120½; 5.20's 1862, 116½; 1864, 117½; 1865, 119½; 1865 (January and July), 119½; 1867, 120½; 1868, 119½; New 5's, 115½; 10.40's (coupons), 117½; Currency, 119½.

Augusta City Market.

THURSDAY, Feb. 11.

APPLES—Our market is full of apples at $2@3 per bbl., and buyers are much more particular regarding quality than they were last fall. The best hand-picked Baldwins and Greenings sell at the above price.

BUTTER—Choice fall make 33c; winter butter of good quality 30c.

BEANS—Pea beans $2 00@2 50; Yellow Eyes $2 50@2 75.

CHEESE—Has advance, and we quote Factory at 16@17c at wholesale. No domestic cheese offered.

FLOUR—Superfine to common extra $6 50@7 50; Good brands at $7 50@8 00; choice Western $8 50; St. Louis favorite brands $9 00@11 00.

GRAIN—Corn $1 00; Oats have advanced to 65@70c; barley and rye nominal.

HAY—Several loads of coarse in market at $15. STRAW, loose $7@8.

HIDES AND SKINS—Hides, 8c; calf skins, 13@15c; wool skins and lamb skins 75c@$1 25.

LIME—$1 30 ₩ cask.

MEAL—Corn 95c; rye $1 75 ₩ bushel.

PRODUCE—Potatoes 50c; eggs 30c; lard 18c.

SHORTS—$1 75 per one hundred pounds.

PROVISIONS—Clear salt pork, $23@, ₩ 200 lbs; beef ₩ side 8@10c; round hog 9@10c; ham 14@16c; turkeys 15@18c; spring lamb 8@9c; veals 7@8c; mutton 7@8c; spring chickens 17@18c; geese 15c.

WOOL—Medium to fine, washed 40@45c; unwashed one fourth discount. Nominal.

WOOD—Hard wood, seasoned under cover, $6 00@8 00 ₩ cord; mill wood, delivered, $4 ₩ cord.

NOTE. The above represents the prices current in our market, on the day of its date; and is of course, liable to some changes from day to day in the week to come. Those who bring country produce to market must bear this in mind and make allowance for possible variations—up or down.

Portland Market.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 10.

APPLES—Green $1 50@2 50; dried 7½@c for Western; 7@12c for Eastern.

BEANS—We quote hand-picked pea beans at $2 50 @2 75; yellow eyes, $3 00@3 25.

BUTTER—Selling at 35@38c for family. Store, from 30@35c ₩ lb.

CHEESE—Factory is selling at 15@16c ₩ lb; Vermont and New York Dairy, 14@15.

FISH—We quote large shore $5 50@5 75; large bank $5 25@5 50; small $3 75@4 00; pollock $3 00@4 00; haks $2 75@3 00 ₩ qtl; herring $4 25@5 00 ₩ bbl; scaled, ₩ box, 25@37c; mackerel ₩ bbl—Bay No. 3 to No. 1, $8 00@18 00; Shore Nos. 1 and 2, $9 00@14 00.

FLOUR—We quote Superfine, $4 25@4 50; Spring X and XX, $5 00@6 00; Michigan Winter X and XX, $7 00@8 25; Illinois X and XX, $6 75@9 00; St. Louis X and XX, $8 25@9 00.

GRAIN—We quote mixed Corn at 89@90 and yellow 94. Oats are worth 68@70c, fine feed at $35 ₩ ton, and shorts at $30 ₩ ton.

HAY—Loose, $16 00@20 00 ₩ ton for prime. Pressed selling at $16 00@18 00. Baled Straw $12@14 ₩ ton for prime.

LARD—Prime Western ₩ tierce, 15c ₩ lb; per keg 15c; pail 16@16c.

PLASTER—White, ₩ ton, $3 00; blue $2 75; ground in bbls $3 00@3 00; calcined in bbls $2 75@3 00.

PRODUCE—We quote beef side at 9@13c; veal 8@10; mutton 12@13c; chickens 15@18c; turkeys 18@20c; eggs 29@31c; potatoes 60@70c ₩ bush; onions $3 75 ₩ bbl. Round hogs, 8@9.

PROVISIONS—We quote as follows: Mess beef, Chicago, $12 00@13 50; plate $15 00; extra plate $16 50@ ——; pork backs, $25 50; clear, $24 50@25 00; mess $22 00@23 00. Hams 12½@13c.

Bangor Produce Market.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 10.

BEANS—Yellow eyes $2 80@3 00 ₩ bushel; hand-picked lots $3 00 ₩ bushel; Pea Beans $2 50@2 80.

BUTTER—Is worth from 28@35c ₩ lb, according to quality.

EGGS—Selling at 28c ₩ dozen.

HAY—Best qualities loose sell at $13 00@14 00 ₩ ton Pressed $13@18.

GRAIN—Oats are now worth 65@68c ₩ bush; corn $1 00@1 03 ₩ bush.

POTATOES—Selling in the market at 65@68c per bushel.

PROVISIONS—Good fresh beef, by the side worth $12c ₩ lb; round hogs 10@11c; lambs 8@9c.

HIDES AND SKINS—Lambs pelts $1 25@1 75 each. Hides 7@7c ₩ lb.

WOOL—Selling dull at 30@45c per lb.

☞Osage City, Kansas, which is settled by coal-miners, was thrown into great excitement Thursday by the breaking out of a fire in the shaft of the Osage Mining Company. Thirty men and three boys were in the mine at the time; and, as the flames shot out of the shaft high into the air, mothers, wives and children rushed to the scene, which was rendered harrowing to a heart-rending degree. With little or no water, the situation was horrible, until an engine happened to arrive with a full tank. This and several barrels of salt water were emptied into the blazing shaft. While the fire was at its height, the head of a man appeared in the flames, and as he was drawn to the surface he fainted. This was two hours after the fire began, and soon after a man named Marks bravely went down into the shaft to rescue those who remained beneath. These soon appeared, coming up one after another, some with strength enough to hold on to ropes, others unconscious. By half-past 4 every man was saved, and the town was wild with rejoicing. The escape of the men was wonderful.

☞Carpenter, Chandler, Butler and Poland, the four men who devised and carried through the gag-law, under which Attorney General Williams is about to bring a St. Louis editor to Washington to trial for an alleged offence committed in Michigan, have been repudiated by their constituents and retire to private life after the 4th of next month.

Congressional Summary.

Forty-Third Congress.

THURSDAY, Feb: 4.

SENATE. It was agreed to occupy till 2 o'clock for the consideration of bills from the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Washburn, from the Committee on Claims, reported adversely on the bill to pay certain persons and corporations for losses sustained by the so called St. Albans raid on the 18th of October, 1864, and it was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Pratt, from the Committee on Pensions, reported with amendments the Senate bill amending the pension laws, so to remove the disability of those who having participated in the rebellion have, since its termination, enlisted in the army of the United States and become disabled. Placed on the calendar.

Mr. Washburn of Mass., from Committee on Claims, reported with an amendment the Senate bill to pay the First National Bank of St. Albans, Vt., $28,650, it being the amount of U. S. notes held by said bank as the financial agent of the United States, forcibly taken away by the raiders from Canada on the 19th of Oct., 1864. Placed on the calendar.

Mr. Logan, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the House bill to provide for the relief of persons suffering from the ravages of grasshoppers. Passed.

On motion of Mr. Morton the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the concurrent resolution to repeal the 22d joint rule and modified the resolution for its repeal so as to provide that the rule shall read. "No objection to the reception and counting of any electoral vote or votes from any state shall be valid unless such objection is sustained by an affirmative of the two houses."

After a discussion it was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Adjourned.

House. Immediately after the reading of the journal the debate on the civil rights bill was continued by Mr. Blount of Ga.

The galleries were thronged, the colored element largely predominated. There was very little interest or excitement on the floor. most of the Republican members being in the lobby and committee rooms.

Mr. Hoar of Mass., spoke briefly in reply to Mr. Blount, after which Mr. Hale of New York obtained the floor and in a short speech defended the constitutionality of the bill before the House.

2.20 p. M.—The debate on the civil rights bill continues. Messrs. White and Caldwell of Alabama have spoken, the former in support and the latter in opposition to the measure.

Mr. Eldridge of Wis. now has the floor. The proceedings are devoid of interest. More than half the members are absent from the hall.

Mr. Scofield, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made a unanimous report acquitting Stowell of Va., of charges made against him of selling a naval cadetship, and the report was agreed to. The House at 5.40 took a recess till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, Feb. 5.

SENATE. Senator Henry of Connecticut announced the death of his colleague the Hon. William A. Buckingham and offered the usual resolutions. A committee consisting of five senators, was appointed to attend the funeral at Norwich Conn., after which the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE. The attendance in the House today was fully as large as yesterday. The House met at ten o'clock, but long before that hour every seat in the gallery was occupied, hundreds standing around the doors in hopes of getting inside the chamber. The men's gallery was entirely occupied by colored men.

The civil rights bill was taken up about half past ten, and three or four uninteresting ten minute speeches were made up to eleven o'clock.

At a quarter after twelve, several speeches having been made, the most notable of which were those of Messrs. Phelps and Shanks, Gen. Butler called the previous question.

Gen. Butler closed his speech at 15 minutes of 2. No demonstrations, either of approval or disapproval, took place, either in the galleries or on the floor.

A vote was then taken on the school amendment to the bill, which was carried by 128 to 48.

The next vote was on inserting as a preamble to the bill, a portion of the Democratic platform of 1872, which had been quoted by Mr. Burrows of Michigan.

The preamble was adopted; yeas 219, nays 26.

The bill was then passed; yeas 162, nays 100.

The following is the bill as passed, without the preamble: That all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, public conveyances on land and water, theatres and other places of public amusement, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law, and applicable alike to citizens of every race and color, regardless of any previous condition of servitude; that any person who shall violate the foregoing section by denying to any except for reasons by law applicable to citizens of every race and color, and regardless of any previous conditions of servitude, the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges in said section enumerated, or by aiding or inciting such denial, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay the sum of $500 to the person aggrieved thereby, to be recovered in an action of debt with full costs, and shall for every such offence be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than $500 nor more than $1000, or shall be imprisoned not less than thirty days nor more than one year; provided that all persons may elect to sue for the penalty aforesaid or proceed under their rights at common law, and by state statutes, and having so elected, proceed in the mode or the other, their right to proceed in the other jurisdiction shall be barred, but this proviso shall not apply to criminal proceedings either under this act or the criminal law of any state; and provided further that a judgment for a penalty in favor of a party aggrieved, or a judgment upon an indictment shall be a bar to either prosecution respectively.

Section 3.—That the District and Circuit Courts of the United States shall have, exclusive of the courts of the several states, cognizance of all crimes and offences against and violations of the provisions of this act, and actions for the penalty given by the preceding section, may be prosecuted in the territorial district or circuit courts of the United States wherever the defendants may be found, without regard to the other party, and the District Attorney, Marshals and Deputy Marshals of the United States, and the Commissioner appointed by the circuit and territorial courts of the United States, with powers of arresting, imprisoning or bailing offenders against the laws of the United states, are hereby specially authorized and required to institute proceedings against every person who shall violate the provisions of this act, and cause him to be arrested and imprisoned, or bailed, as the case may be, for trial before such court of the United States or territorial court as, by law, has cognizance of the offence, except in respect of the right of action accruing to the person aggrieved, and such district attorneys shall cause such proceedings to be prosecuted to their termination as in other cases; provided, that nothing contained in this section shall be construed to deny or defeat any right of civil action accruing to any person, whether by reason of this act or otherwise, and any district attorney who shall wilfully fail to institute and prosecute the proceedings herein required shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of $500 to the aggrieved thereby, to be recovered by an action of debt with full costs, and shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be fined not less than $100 nor more than $500; and provided further, that a judgment for penalty in favor of the party aggrieved against any such District Attorney, or judgment upon indictment against any such District Attorney, shall be a bar to either prosecution, respectively.

SATURDAY, Feb. 6.

SENATE. The credentials of Mr. Randolph of New Jersey were presented and filed.

The bill to organize the territory of Kalahama was postponed till the second Monday of December next.

A message was received from the House of representatives announcing the non concurrence of that body in the amendments of the Senate bill amending the national bank act and fixing compensation of national bank examiners and asking a committee of conference.

The request was agreed to, and Messrs. Scott, Morrill of Vt., and Bayard were appointed members of the conference committee on the Senate.

The chair laid before the Senate a number of bills from the House, among them the civil rights bill, which was read a first time.

Mr. Davis of West Virginia objected to its second reading to-day, but at the request of Mr. Edmunds he withdrew his objection that the bill might be referred.

The Senate then proceeded to executive business and subsequently adjourned.

House. The Hennepin canal bill was taken up and was favored by Messrs. McCreary, Colton and Wilson. Messrs. White, Burchard, Dawes and Holman opposed it.

Mr. Dawes did not think the government should launch out into the system of public improvements in the present crippled condition of the treasury. He asked that the bill be postponed till the temper of the House could be tested on the subject of increased taxation.

Mr. Holman of Indiana, thought it was the job of the session, the pioneer measure which in the end would take hundreds of thousands of dollars from the government.

Mr. Hawley of Illinois, who has charge of the bill, replied to the argument made against it. Everybody in the northwest so far as he knew was in favor of the measure except his colleague had stated.

Mr. Maynard of Tennessee, supported the bill.

At the close of the discussion Mr. Gunckel of Ohio, moved to lay the bill on the table.

Pending the motion the Speaker announced the appointment of Messrs. Garfield, Starkweather and Archer as a committee of conference on the legislative appropriation bill. Adjourned.

MONDAY, Feb. 8.

SENATE. Mr. Conkling from the Judiciary Committee, reported adversely on the bill to give jurisdiction to the Court of Claims to hear the claim of G. W. Curtis Lee for Arlington. Indefinitely postponed.

The chair laid before the Senate a message from the President in regard to the affairs in Arkansas, in which he says all the testimony will show that in 1872 Joseph Brooks was lawfully elected Governor of that state, and was unlawfully deprived of his office; that in 1874 the constitution of the state was overthrown by lawless and revolutionary measures. In concluding the message, the President submits that a precedent so dangerous should not be allowed to pass unnoticed, and ask Congress to take action in regard to the subject. A debate ensued.

Mr. Morton, from the Committee on Elections, submitted a report in the case of P. B. S. Pinchback, and a resolution declaring him elected to a sent as Senator from Louisiana from March 4th. 1873.

Mr. Hamilton gave notice that he would submit a minority report.

Pending discussion on the steamboat bill the Senate proceeded to executive business and adjourned.

House. A large number of bills and joint resolutions of a miscellaneous and private character were introduced.

Mr. Kelley introduced his favorite 3.65 interconvertible bond scheme. The bill proposes to repeal the act prohibiting an increase of greenback circulation, passed in June, 1874.

The bill giving bounties to the heirs of soldiers who served less than one year in the army was passed—191 to 26.

Mr. Sayler of Ind., from the Committee on Patents, made an adverse report on the application for an extension of the Wilson sewing machine patents. The report shows that the machines have been in existence 21 years; that the combination of sewing machine companies which own the patents, have received over two millions from them, and that the public has therefore paid heavily for the invention. The report was laid on the table.

The House at 4-45 adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 9.

SENATE. On motion of Mr. Johnson of Vt. the vote by which the bill referring to the Court of Claims the court of G. W. Custis Lee, for the Arlington estate, which was indefinitely postponed yesterday, was reconsidered and placed on the calender with adverse report. Mr. Johnson gave notice that he would address the Senate at an early day.

The Vice President announced that the morning hour had expired and the Senate would resume the consideration of the steamboat bill.

Mr. Ferry moved that the Senate adjourn as a mark of respect to his late colleague, Mr. Buckingham, whose funeral took place to day, and the Senate at five minutes past one adjourned.

House. After the passage of some important bills and resolutions and the presentation of a memorial praying for the repeal of the tax on sugar the repeal of which had resulted in a loss of $14,000,000 in gold to the government without any reduction in price to the consumer. Mr. O'Nille, from the committee on appropriations presented a bill which was made a special order for to-morrow. It appropriates $30,000,000.

Mr. Smith of New York, from the committee on elections, called up the report of that committee in the case of Cannon delegate from Utah, declaring him guilty of polygamous practices, and that he be excluded from his seat.

Mr. Loughridge of Iowa, raised a question of consideration, and the house refused to consider it, only 22 voted aye.

The Indian bill finally passed without any appropriation for the Choctaw and Chickasaw claims. Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 10.

SENATE. Mr. Hitchcock called up the House bill to perfect the United States government guarantee of the District of Columbia 3.65 bonds and to authorize them to be registered at the United States Treasury. Passed.

Mr. Sargent asked that the resolution of the Senator from Miss. (Schurz) instructing the judiciary committee to inquire what legislation by Congress is necessary to secure to the people of Louisiana the right of self government be taken up, in order that it might be the unfinished business to-morrow when he desired to address the Senate.

Mr. Morton gave notice that as soon as the bill now before the Senate was disposed of he would call up the resolution to seat Pinchback.

The Senate at 4.30 proceeded to consideration of executive business, and at 5 o'clock adjourned.

House. Mr. Dawes of Mass., from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported the new tariff bill, which was made the special order for to-morrow.

Immediately after the presentation of the revenue bill from the Ways and Means Committee, consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill was resumed.

The total amount recommended to be appropriated by this bill is $37,524,361.

An amendment offered by Mr. Holman was adopted requiring the Postmaster General to cause advertisements of mail letting to be posted up conspicuously in each postoffice for at least 60 days.

☞Friday afternoon, when Patrick Farrell, a peaceable Irishman residing in Lowell, went home to his dinner, he found his wife crazy drunk. He upbraided her for being in such a condition, when she attacked him with the fury of a tigress, and both fell to the floor. The woman managed in some way to lay hold upon a flat-iron, and dealt her husband two or three terrible blows on the head, following these with other strokes with a heavy billet of wood, which proved fatal almost instantly. The unfortunate man after being struck with the iron cried, "Oh my God, I'm killed," fell back and expired. The intoxicated woman, not realizing her heinous crime, stared at him vacantly for a few moments, and laughingly leaned down and kissed him. The wife has been committed to await the action of the Grand Jury.

THE NEW SENATORS. The new Wisconsin Senator elected in place of Carpenter, is Angus Cameron of Pennsylvania. He is of Scotch Irish descent and was born in Livingston county, New York. He is forty-six years old, and has been in Wisconsin since 1857. He is a lawyer of good repute, a member of the Episcopal church, and a republican of the conservative type. The Hon. Algernon S. Paddock, Senator-elect from Nebraska, is a native of New York State, having been born in Luzerne, Warren county. He went to Nebraska at the age of twenty-three, and became secretary and acting governor while that State was under a territorial government.

☞W. S. King the recusant witness in the Pacific Mail Subsidy case has been found at Compton, Canada. The Sergeant-at-Arms visited him and placed in his hands a subpœna to appear before the Committee of Ways and Means and testify. Mr. King expressed much surprise that the messenger found him, but did not indicate that he would obey the summons. The committee will probably bring the matter before the House with a view of having a warrant issued for King's arrest.

☞It is stated that the changing of the mode of paying postmasters from commissions to salaries, has had the effect to stimulate postmasters to attend to their business closely, but at the same time to increase their compensation in the aggregate more than half a million dollars during the fiscal year, without a corresponding increase in the receipts of the Department.

☞To persons employed in constant mental toil, study or anxiety, Fellows' Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites is especially adapted, namely to Teachers, Clergymen, Editors, Lawyers and impecunious business men.

Foreign News.

Great Britain.

London, Feb. 5. Parliament reassembled to-day. The Queen's speech says the peace of Europe remains unbroken and she will exert her efforts to have it continue.—The recognition of Alfonso as King of Spain will be settled without delay.

The suppression of the East African slave trade is confidently looked for. In the colonies during the past year there has been general prosperity. Slavery has been abolished on the Gold Coast.

By a providential blessing the Government has been able to entirely avert the loss of life apprehended from famine in India.

Finances are satisfactory, the trade of the country had somewhat fallen off, but general prosperity prevailed.

The Queen recommends the repeal of exceptional statutes touching the peace of Ireland, and the enactment of various local laws.

France.

Paris, Feb. 8. Additional returns from election in Seine-et-Oise yesterday, show that M. Valentine, the candidate of the Republicans, was elected to the Assembly.

Spain.

London, Feb. 8. The *Times* telegrams from Spain state that Senor Zerrilla's offence consisted in issuing invitations to a conference for organizing the Republican party on the basis of the constitution of 1869.

A committee of Austrian nobles which has hitherto contributed liberally for the Carlist cause have advised Don Carlos to conclude peace with Don Alfonso.

The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent asserts that the object of the Carlist attack at Orteiza was to captnre King Alfonso, as he was know to be in the vicinity. Eight battalions of Carlists were engaged in the movement.

An official despatch has been received at the Ministry of War admitting that the advance guard of the extreme left of the Alfonsist troops operating against the Carlists in Navarre has suffered a check, and stating that it was caused by the over confidence of its commander in its strength. However, it will have no effect upon the general plan of the campaign.

Italy.

London, Feb. 5—5P. M. The *Times'* despatch from Rome says efforts were made to ascertain whether the Austrian Government is inclined to support Cardinal Rauscher's election to the Papacy, but that the sovereignty declines to interfere, fearing it will be held responsible by Germany for the policy of the new Pope. It is thought the Conservatives of Austria would favor Cardinal Ranscher if they should succeed to power.

Austria.

Vienna, Feb. 9. The Archduke Johann Salvator of Tuscany, an officer of the Austrian army, has been ordered under arrest because in a pamphlet on military reorganized he violently attacked Germany, and declares that war between Austria and Germany is pending.

EXCITING SCENE IN CONGRESS. An exciting scene occurred in the National House of Representatives last week which strangely resembled the *ante bellum* performances in that body. If General Butler desired to close his Congressional career in a general row so as to attract the attention of the entire country, his wish has been gratified. The old spirit of caste which ought to have expired with the war, blazed out afresh on Thursday, and provoked a disagreeable demonstration on the part of the fiery John Young Brown of Kentucky.

Mr. Butler's remarks the day previous, on the Civil Rights bill, had made Brown very angry and he had carefully prepared a phillippic aimed at the General and at the Civil Rights bill. The bill, he said, was born in malignity, would be passed in defiance and in violation of the Constitution, and would be executed he feared in violence and bloodshed. He considered the bill a part of the machinery set in motion for the campaign of 1876. He believed that a deliberate conspiracy had already been formed overthrow constitutional liberty in the States. The people of the South, he said, were lying in helplessness and distress, their houses desolate, their fields wasted, themselves on the verge of bankruptcy.

Proceeding with his denunciations, Mr. Brown said that the Southern people had heard their fellow citizens in Louisiana denounced as banditti. Elsewhere has that language been repeated with the addition of the epithets of thieves and murderers. If the accusation should come, he said, from one who is outlawed in his own home by respectable society, whose name is the synonym of falsehood, whose chief business has been to defend and champion fraud, who has been such an apologist of vice that imagination sickens and invective exhausts itself in attempting to describe it, it would not be a matter of surprise.

Mr. Brown was here interrupted by the Speaker with the question whether he was speaking of any member of the House, to which Brown replied: "No, I am describing a man in my mind's eye. I have called no names." Brown, continuing, said if he was to describe everything pusillanimous in war, inhuman in peace, forbidden in morals, infamous in politics, he would call it Butlerism.

The Speaker, with a prompt, ponderous rap of his gavel, said he did not think the gentleman had answered in good faith. Had he known the purpose of the gentleman's speech he should have called him to order. The official reporter was ordered to write out his notes of what Mr. Brown had said, and while he did so there was a dead silence.

Mr. Hale of New York, rising to a question of the highest parliamentary privilege, sent to the Clerk's desk a resolution reciting the facts and directing the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring forthwith John Young Brown to the bar of the House, there to receive at the hands of the Speaker the severe censure of the House.

Mr. Dawes, directly after this was read, much paler than was his wont, rose and with a voice somewhat uneven from emotion proposed an amendment that John Young Brown, for the same causes recited, be immediately expelled the House. This resolution he sustained by an impromptu speech of great earnestness and power.

Speeches were made by Cox of New York, Judge Hoar of Massachusetts, when Mr. Dawes withdrew his motion of expulsion and moved the previous question on the motion for censure.

Brown came forward and was formally censured by the Speaker, after which the excitement subsided.

☞Havana letters say that on the 18th ult., Max. Gomez and Sanguetl, with 5000 troops, attacked Jibara, three leagues from Santa Spiriti, and compelled the Spaniards to retreat, with the loss of 20 killed and 40 wounded. Maximo Gomez afterward destroyed the entire town, together with the sugar estates in the immediate neighborhood. Near Santa Espiritu the sugar estates of San Andres and Esperanza were burned. In the vicinity of Calbarien but two sugar estates have been destroyed so far as heard from, both belonging to Spanish parties who refused to pay ten and five per cent. to the insurgents. All the families in the neighborhood of Espiritu are ordered to remain inside the Spanish lines, a great deal of suffering is experienced in consequence. The insurgents have taken everything within ten leagues which could subsist an army. There are rumors that there are 17,000 insurgents west of Trocha, and that Maximo Gomez has issued a proclamation stating that all planters who do not pay the tax levied by the Cuban Republic will have their estates burned. The tax is three dollars per hogshead and one dollar per box on sugar, based upon the crop of 1874.

☞A despatch from New York says that an accident on the South-Side Railroad on the night of the 4th inst., was caused by an embankment being washed away, carrying away some fifty feet of track. A passenger car being pushed by a locomotive plunged into the gully, which was full of water, the engine following. As soon as the latter reached the water the boiler exploded, blowing the passenger car and engine into pieces. The engineer, roadmaster and a brakeman were instantly killed. The conductor was jammed between the cars and probably fatally injured. A brakeman, name unknown, will also die. Assistant Superintendent Barr was wounded and burned, but was able to carry the conductor Ransom to a house in his arms. The neighbors rendered all assistance when the accident was known, and worked nearly all night in getting the bodies out of the ruins.

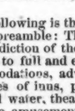
☞Late advices from Fort Sill, Indian Territory, say that a band of Cheyenne Indians recently attacked a Mexican supply train on the border of New Mexico, killed all the train men, numbering from ten to fifteen, and got away with the train, from which it is supposed they obtained arms, ammunition and supplies for a protracted raid. Other bands have been stealing horses from Texas, and it is believed they have succeeded in recrossing the Red River with three or four hundred animals. Still other bands under Howling Wolf and Yellow Horse are raiding round, and at last accounts were moving towards Red River. General Miles has left Cheyenne Agency in pursuit of them.

☞The American Newspaper Advertising Agency of Geo. P. Rowell & Co., N. Y., keeps itself persistently before the people *by advertising in newspapers*. They evidently receive their reward, for we have it from a reliable source that advertising orders issued by them for their customers have exceeded three thousand dollars a day since the commencement of the year, *and this is not a very good year for advertising either.*

For all Female Complaints

nothing equals Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It is a most powerful restorative tonic, also combining the most valuable nervine properties, especially adapting it to the wants of debilitated ladies suffering from weak back, inward fever, congestion, inflammation, or ulceration, or from nervousness, or neuralgic pains. Mr. G. W. Seymour, druggist, of Canton, N. Y., writes Dr. Pierce as follows: "The demand for your Favorite Prescription is wonderful, and one man stated to me that his wife had not done a day's work in five months, when she commenced taking your Favorite Prescription, took two bottles and is now on the third bottle, and is able to do her house-work alone and milk fourteen cows twice a day." Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is sold by all dealers in medicines.

Special Notices.



Centaur Liniments

allay pain, subdue swellings, heal burns, and will cure rheumatism, spavin, and any flesh, bone or muscle disease. Wrapper is for family use; the Yellow Wrapper is for animals. Price 50 cents; large bottles $1. 1y20

Children Cry for Castoria.—Pleasant to take—a perfect substitute for Castor Oil, but more efficacious in regulating the stomach and bowels. 1y20

DANGEROUS INDIFFERENCE.

If you have a friend troubled with a chronic cough and who apprehends no danger from it, speak to him seriously. Tell him that every paroxysm is like the sound of a muffled drum beating time to his march to the grave. Advise him to begin forthwith, a course of HALE'S HONEY OF HOREHOUND AND TAR. The country from ocean to ocean rings with its astounding cures of chronic cough and all complaints of the lungs: no throat tending to consumption.

PIKE'S TOOTH-ACHE DROPS—Cure in one minute.

The Teeth an Advertising Medium.

Every time a lady who uses fragrant SOZODONT opens her mouth, she advertises the article. The state of her teeth is a certificate of its excellence. No spot darkens her pearls, no impurity clings to them, the cushions in which they are set are rosy, and the breath that swells through them is sweet as the breath of June.

Spalding's Liquid Glue, always ready to use.

BUILDING FELT.—We have been very much interested in examining samples of this Felting sent us by Mr. C. J. Fay, Chelsea, N. J. It is highly recommended for covering the outside of buildings, and inside instead of plaster, no tar substance, so objectionable, being used. It has great strength, and resembles fine leather. Mr. Fay manufactures from this felting, floor covering painted in various neat designs. Send for descriptive circular, price list and sampled. *S. J. Republican.*

Married.

In Auburn, Feb. 6, Gilman S. Ilsley, to Georgia A. Brackett, both of Limington.

In Atkinson, Jan. 30, Willie A. Snow to Josie M. Hanson.

In Bristol, Feb. 4, Walter E. Richards to Martha M. Sproul.

In Belfast, Jan. 27, Geo. A. Linniken to Ada L. McKeen; Jan. 28, Charles A. Merrill of San Francisco, Cal. to Clara A. Shibles; Jan. 31, Alfred G. Ellis to Anna M. Wilson.

In Brewer, Feb. 4, Capt James A. Winslow to Addie M. Walton.

In Biddeford, Feb. 4, Benj. Frank Tarbox to Florence A. Wiggin.

In Brooklin, Jan. 31, John Turner to Joan Barney Grindle.

In Boston, Feb. 2, Wilmirth Merrill to Frances E. Crocket of Portland.

In Chelsea, Dec. 18, William T. Gray to Frances Maddox.

In China, Jan 31, Lynn W. Bollins of Albion to Mary M. Main.

In Cumberland Mills, Feb. 6, James M. Mason to Annetia Brower, both of Portland.

In Calais, Feb. 1, Calvin A. Adams to Nellie Tarbox.

In Dexter, Jan. 26, Charles W. Emerson to Ida May Grant of Winterport.

In Dover, Lewis

Poetry.

The Farmer's Fireside.

Around the fire, one wintry night,
The farmer's rosy children sat;
The fagot lent its blazing light,
And mirth went round, and harmless chat.

When, hark! a gentle hand they hear
Low tapping at the bolted door,
And thus to gain their willing ear,
A feeble voice was heard implore:

"Cold blows the blast across the moor,
The sleet drive hissing in the wind;
You toilsome mountain lies before,
A dreary, trackless waste behind.

"My eyes are dim and weak with age;
No road, no path can I descry;
And those poor rags ill stand the rage
Of such a keen, inclement sky.

"So faint I am, these tottering feet
No more my patient frame can bear;
My freezing heart forgets to beat,
And drifting snows my tomb prepare.

"Open your hospitable door,
And shield me from the biting blast;
Cold, cold it blows across the moor,
The weary moor that I have passed."

With hasty steps the farmer ran,
And close beside the fire they place
The poor half-frozen beggar-man,
With shaking limbs and palsied face.

The little children flocking came,
And chafed his frozen hands in theirs;
And busily the good old dame
A comfortable mess prepares.

Their kindness cheered his drooping soul,
And slowly down his cheek
The big round tear was seen to roll,
And told the thanks he could not speak.

The children then began to sigh,
And all their merry chat was o'er;
And yet they felt, they knew not why,
More glad than they had done before.

Our Story Teller.

THE MINISTER'S BLACK VEIL.

A Parable by Nathaniel Hawthorn.

The sexton stood in the porch of Milford meeting-house, pulling hastily at the bell-rope. The old people of the village came stooping along the street. Children, with bright faces, trip merrily beside their parents, or mimicked a graver gait, in the conscious dignity of their Sunday clothes. Spruce bachelors looked sidelong at the pretty maidens, and fancied that the Sabbath sunshine made them prettier than on week days. When the throng had mostly streamed into the porch, the sexton began to toll the bell, keeping his eye on Rev. Mr. Hooper's door. The first glimpse of the clergyman's figure was the signal for the bell to cease its summons.

"But what has good Parson Hooper got upon his face?" cried the sexton in astonishment.

All within hearing immediately turned about, and beheld the semblance of Mr. Hooper pacing slowly in his meditative way toward the meeting-house. With one accord they started, expressing more wonder than if some strange minister were coming to dispute the doctrines of Mr. Hooper's pulpit.

"Are you sure it is our parson?" inquired Goodman Gray, of the sexton.

"Of a certainty it is good Mr. Hooper," replied the sexton. "He was to have exchanged pulpits with Parson Shute of Westbury; but Parson Shute sent to excuse himself, yesterday, being to preach a funeral sermon."

The cause of so much amazement may appear sufficiently slight. Mr. Hooper, a gentlemanly person of about 30, though still a bachelor, was dressed with due clerical neatness, as if a careful wife had starched his band, and brushed the weekly dust from his Sunday's garb. There was but one thing remarkable in his appearance. Swathed about his forehead, and hanging down over his face, so low as to be shaken by his breath, Mr. Hooper had on a black veil. On a nearer view, it seemed to consist of two folds of crape, which entirely concealed his features, except his mouth and chin, but probably did not intercept his sight further than to give a darkened aspect to all living and inanimate things. With this gloomy shade before him, good Mr. Hooper walked onward, at a slow and quiet pace, stooping somewhat and looking on the ground, as is customary with abstracted men, yet nodding kindly to those of his parishioners who still waited to exchange a morning greeting. But so wonder-struck were they that his greeting met with no return.

"I can't really feel as if good Mr. Hooper's face was behind that piece of crape," said the sexton.

"I don't like it," muttered an old woman as she hobbled into the meeting house. "He has changed himself into something awful, only by hiding his face."

"Our parson has gone mad?" cried Goodman Gray, following him across the threshold.

A rumor of some unaccountable phenomenon had preceded Mr. Hooper into the meeting-house, and set all the congregation astir. Few could refrain from twisting their heads towards the door; many stood upright, and turned directly about; while several little boys clambered upon the seats, and came down again with a terrible racket. There was a general bustle, a rustling of the woman's gowns and shuffling of the men's feet, greatly at variance with that hushed repose which should attend the entrance of the minister. But Mr. Hooper appeared not to notice the perturbation of his people. He entered with an almost noiseless step, bent his head mildly to the pews on each side, and bowed as he passed his oldest parishioner, a white-haired, great-grandsire, who occupied an arm-chair in the centre of the aisle. It was strange to observe how slowly this venerable man became conscious of something singular in the appearance of his pastor. He seemed not fully to partake of the prevailing wonder, till Mr. Hooper had ascended the stairs, and showed himself in the pulpit, face to face with the congregation, except for the black veil. That mysterious emblem was never once withdrawn. It shook with his measured breath as he gave out the psalm; it threw its obscurity between him and the holy page, as he read the Scriptures; and while he prayed, the veil lay heavily on his uplifted countenance. Did he seek to hide it from the dread being whom he was addressing?

Such was the effect of this simple piece of crape, that more than one woman of delicate nerves was forced to leave the meeting-house. Yet perhaps the pale-faced congregation was almost as fearful a sight to the minister, as his black veil to them.

Mr. Hooper had the reputation of a good preacher, but not an energetic one; he strove to win his people heavenward by mild, persuasive influences, rather than to drive them thither by the thunders of the word. The sermon which he now delivered was marked by the same characteristics of style and manner as the general series of his pulpit oratory. But there was something, either in the sentiment of the discourse itself, or in the imagination of the auditors, which made it greatly the most powerful effort that they had ever heard delivered from their pastor's lips. It was tinged, rather more darkly than usual, with the gentle gloom of Mr. Hooper's temperament. The subject had reference to secret sin, and those sad mysteries which we hide from our nearest and dearest, and would fain conceal from our own consciousness, even forgetting that the Omniscient, can detect them. A subtle power was breathed into his words. Each member of the congregation, the most innocent girl, and the man of hardened breast, felt as if the preacher had crept upon them, behind his awful veil, and discovered their hoarded iniquity of deed or thought. Many spread their clasped hands on their bosoms. There was nothing terrible in what Mr. Hooper said; at least, no violence; and yet, with every tremor of his melancholy voice, the hearers quaked. An unsought pathos came handin-hand with awe. So sensible were the audience of some unusual attribute in their minister, that they longed for a breath of wind to blow aside the veil, almost believing that a stranger's visage would be discovered, though the form, gesture and voice were those of Mr. Hooper.

At the close of the service, the people hurried out with indecorous confusion, eager to communicate their pent-up amazement, and conscious of lighter spirits, the moment they lost sight of the black veil. Some gathered in little circles, huddled closely together, with their mouths all whispering in the center; some went homeward alone, wrapt in silent meditation; some talked loudly, and profaned the Sabbath-day with ostentatious laughter. A few shook their sagacious heads, intimating that they could penetrate the mystery; while one or two affirmed that there was no mystery at all, but only that Mr. Hooper's eyes were weakened by the midnight lamp as to require a shade. After a brief interval, forth came good Mr. Hooper also, in the rear of his flock. Turning his veiled face from one group to another, he paid due reverence to the hoary heads, saluted the middle-aged with kind dignity, as their friend and spiritual guide, greeted the young with mingled authority and love, and laid his hands on the little children's heads to bless them. Such was always his custom on the Sabbath-day. Strange and bewildered looks repaid him for his courtesy. None, as on former occasions, aspired to the honor of walking by their pastor's side. Old Squire Saunders, doubtless by an accidental lapse of memory, neglected to invite Mr. Hooper to his table, where the good clergyman had been wont to bless the food, almost every Sunday since his settlement. He returned, therefore, to the parsonage, and at the moment of closing the door was observed to look back upon the people, all of whom had their eyes fixed upon the minister. A sad smile gleamed faintly from beneath the black veil, and flickered about his mouth, glimmering as he disappeared.

"How strange," said a lady, "that a simple black veil, such as any woman might wear in her bonnet, should become such a terrible thing on Mr. Hooper's face!"

"Something must surely be amiss with Mr. Hooper's intellect," observed her husband, the physician of the village. "But the strangest part of the affair is the effect of this vagary, even on a sober-minded man like myself. The black veil, though it covers only our pastor's face, throws its influence over his whole person, and makes him ghostlike from head to foot. Do you feel it so?"

"Truly do I," replied the lady, "and I would not be alone with him for the world. I wonder he is not afraid to be alone with himself?"

"Men sometimes are so," said her husband.

The afternoon service was attended with similar circumstances. At its conclusion, the bell tolled for the funeral of a young lady. The relatives and friends were assembled in the house, and the more distant acquaintances stood about the door, speaking of the good qualities of the deceased, when their talk was interrupted by the appearance of Mr. Hooper, still covered with his black veil. It was now an appropriate emblem. The clergyman stepped into the room where the corpse was laid, and bent over the coffin, to take a last farewell of his deceased parishoner. As he stooped, the veil hung straight down, from his forehead, so that, if her eyelids had not been closed forever, the dead maiden might have seen his face. Could Mr. Hooper be fearful of her glance, that he so hastily caught back the black veil? A person who watched the interview between the dead and living scrupled not to affirm that, at the instant when the clergyman's features were disclosed, the corpse had slightly shuddered, rustling the shroud and muslin cap, though the countenance retained the composure of death. A superstitious old woman was the only witness of this prodigy. From the coffin, Mr. Hooper passed into the chamber of the mourners, and thence to the head of the stairs, to make the funeral prayer. It was a tender and heart-dissolving prayer, full of sorrow, yet so imbued with celestial hopes, that the music of a heavenly harp, swept by the fingers of the dead, seemed faintly to be heard among the saddest accents of the minister. The people trembled, though they but darkly understood him when he prayed that they, and himself, and all of mortal race, might be ready, as he trusted this young maiden had been, for the dreadful hour that shall snatch the veil from their faces. The bearers went heavily forth, and the mourners followed, saddening all the street, with the dead before them, and Mr. Hooper in his black veil behind.

"Why do you look back?" said one in the procession to his partner.

"I had a fancy," replied she that the minister and the maiden's spirit were walking hand-in-hand."

"And so had I, at the same moment," said the other.

That night the handsomest couple in Milford village were to be joined in wedlock. Though reckoned a melancholy man, Mr. Hooper had a placid cheerfulness for such occasions, which often excited a sympathetic smile where livelier merriment would have been thrown away. There was no quality of his disposition which people more loved than this. The company at the wedding awaited his arrival with impatience, trusting that the strange awe which had gathered over him throughout the day would now be dispelled. But such was not the result. When Mr. Hooper came, the first thing that their eyes rested on was the same horrible black veil, which had added deeper gloom to the funeral, and could portend nothing but evil to the wedding. Such was the immediate effect on the guests, that a cloud seemed to have rolled duskily from beneath the black crape, and dimmed the light of the candles. The bridal pair stood up before the minister. But the bride's cold fingers quivered in the tremulous hand of the bridegoom, and her death-like paleness caused a whisper that the maiden who had been buried a few hours before, was come from her grave to be married. If ever another wedding were so dismal, it was that mysterious one where they told the wedding knell. After performing the ceremony, Mr. Hooper raised a glass of wine to his lips, wishing happiness to the new-married couple in a strain of mild pleasantry that ought to have brightened the features of the guests, like a cheerful gleam from the heart. At that instant, catching a glimpse of his figure in the looking-glass, the black veil involved his own spirit in the horror with which it overwhelmed others. His frame shuddered—his lips grew white—he spilt the untasted wine upon the carpet—and rushed forth into the darkness. For the earth, too, had on a black veil.

The next day, the whole village of Milford talked of little else than Parson Hooper's black veil. That, and the mystery concealed behind it, supplied a topic for discussion between acquaintances meeting in the street, and good women gossiping at their open windows. It was the first item of news that the tavern-keeper told his guests. The children babbled of it on their way to school. One imitative little imp covered his face with an old black handkerchief, thereby so affrighting his playmates, that the panic seized himself, and he well-nigh lost his wits by his own waggery.

It was remarkable that of all the busy bodies and impertinent people in the parish, not one ventured to put the plain question to Mr. Hooper, wherefore he did this thing. Hitherto, whenever there appeared the slightest call for such interference, he had never lacked advisers, nor shown himself averse to be guided by their judgment. If he erred at all, it was by so painful a degree of self-distrust, that even the mildest censure would lead him to consider an indifferent action as a crime. Yet, though so well acquainted with this amiable weakness, no individual among his parishoners chose to make the black veil a subject of friendly remonstrance. There was a feeling of dread neither plainly confessed nor carefully concealed, which caused each to shift the responsibility upon another, till at length it was found expedient to send a deputation of the church, in order to deal with Mr. Hooper about the mystery, before it should grow into a scandal. Never did any embassy so ill discharge its duties. The minister received them with friendly courtesy, but became silent, after they were seated, leaving to his visiters the whole burden of introducing their important business. The topic, it might be supposed, was obvious enough. There was the black veil, swathed round Mr. Hooper's forehead, and concealing every feature above his placid mouth, on which, at times, they could perceive the glimmering of a melancholy smile. But that piece of crape, to their imagination, seemed to hang down before his heart, the symbol of a fearful secret between him and them. Were the veil but cast aside, they might speak freely of it, but not till then. Thus they sat a considerable time, speechless, confused, and shrinking uneasily from Mr. Hooper's eye, which they felt to be fixed upon them with an invisible glance. Finally, the deputies returned abashed to their constituents pronouncing the matter too weighty to be handled, except by a council of the churches, if, indeed, it might not require a general synod.

But there was one person in the village unappalled by the awe with which the black veil had impressed all beside herself. When the deputies returned without an explanation, or even venturing to demand one, she, with the calm energy of her character, determined to chase away the strange cloud that seemed to be setting round Mr. Hooper, every moment more darkly than before. As his plighted wife, it should be her privilege to know what the black veil concealed. At the minister's first visit, therefore, she entered upon the subject, with a direct simplicity, which made the task easier both for him and her. After he had seated himself, she fixed her eyes steadfastly upon the veil, but could discern nothing of the dreadful gloom that had so overawed the multitude; it was but a double fold of crape hanging down from his forehead to his mouth and slightly stirring with his breath.

"No," said she aloud, and smiling, "there is nothing terrible in this piece of crape, except that it hides a face which I am always glad to look upon. Come, good sir, let the sun shine from behind the cloud. First lay aside your black veil, then tell me why you put it on."

Mr. Hooper's smile glimmered faintly.

"There is an hour to come," said he, "when all of us shall cast aside our veils. Take it not amiss, beloved friend, if I wear this piece of crape till then."

"Your words are a mystery, too," returned the young lady. "Take away the veil from them at least."

"Elizabeth, I will," said he, so far as my vow may suffer me. Know, then, this veil is a type and a symbol, and I am bound to wear it ever, both in light and darkness in solitude and before the gaze of multitudes, and as with strangers, so with my familiar friends. No mortal eye will see it withdrawn. This dismal shade must separate me from the world; even you, Elizabeth, can never come behind it!"

"What grievous affliction has befallen you," she earnestly inquired, "that you should thus darken your eyes forever?"

"If it be a sign of mourning," replied Mr. Hooper, "I, perhaps, like most other mortals, have sorrows dark enough to be typified by a black veil."

"But what if the world will not believe that it is the type of an innocent sorrow?" urged Elizabeth. "Beloved and respected as you are, there may be a whisper, that you hide your face under the consciousness of secret sin. For the sake of your holy office do away this scandal!"

The color rose into her cheeks, as she intimated the nature of the rumors that were already abroad in the village. But Mr. Hooper's mildness did not forsake him. He even smiled again—that same sad smile, which always appeared like a faint glimmering of light, proceeding from the obscurity beneath the veil.

"If I hide my face for sorrow, there is cause enough," he merely replied; "and if I cover it for secret sin, what mortal might not do the same?"

And with this gentle but unconquerable obstinacy did he resist all her entreties. At length Elizabeth sat silent. For a few moments she appeared lost in thought, considering, probably, what new methods might be tried to withdraw her lover from so dark a phantasy, which if it had no other meaning, was perhaps a symptom of mental disease. Though of a firmer character than his own, the tears rolled down her cheeks. But, in an instant, as it were, a new feeling took that of sorrow. Her eyes were fixed insensibly on the black veil, when, like a sudden twilight in the air, its terrors fell around her. She arose, and stood trembling before him.

"And do you feel it, then; at last?" said he, mournfully.

She made no reply, but covered her eyes with her hand, and turned to leave the room. He rushed forward and caught her arm.

"Have patience with me, Elizabeth!" cried he, passionately. "Do not desert me, though this veil must be between us here on earth. Be mine, and hereafter there shall be no veil over my face—no darkness between our souls! It is but a mortal veil—it is not for eternity! Oh! you know not how lonely I am, and how frightened, to be alone behind my black veil—it is not for eternity! Do not leave me by this miserable obscurity forever."

"Lift the veil, but once, and look me in the face," said she.

"Never, it cannot be," replied Mr. Hooper.

"Then, farewell!" said Elizabeth.

She withdrew her arm from his grasp and slowly departed, pausing at the door to give one long, shuddering gaze, that seemed almost to penetrate the mystery of the black veil. But, even amid his grief, Mr. Hooper smiled to think that only a material emblem could separated him from only happiness, though the horrors which it shadowed forth must be drawn darkly between the fondest of lovers.

From that time no attempts were made to remove Mr. Hooper's black veil, or, by a direct appeal, to discover the secret which it was supposed to hide. By persons who claimed a superiority to popular prejudice, it was reckoned merely an eccentric whim, such as often mingles with the sober actions of men otherwise rational, and tinges them all with its own semblance of insanity. But with the multitude good Mr. Hooper was irreparably a bugbear. He could not walk the street with any peace of mind, so conscious was he that the gentle and timid would turn aside to avoid him, and that others would make it a point of hardihood to throw themselves in his way. The unpertinence of the latter class compelled him to give up the customary walk at sunset to the burial-ground; for when he leaned pensively over the gate, there would always be faces behind the grave-stones peeping at his black veil. A fable went the rounds that the stare of the dead people drove him hence. It grieved him to the very depth of his kind heart to observe how the children fled from his approach, breaking up their merriest sports while his melancholy figure was yet afar off. Their instinctive dread was the immediate effect on the guests, but a cloud seemed to have rolled duskily from beneath the black crape, and dimmed the light of the candles. The bridal pair stood up before the minister. But the bride's cold fingers quivered in the tremulous hand of the bridegoom, and her death-like paleness caused a whisper that the maiden who had been buried a few hours before, was come from her grave to be married. If ever another wedding were so dismal, it was that mysterious one where they told the wedding knell. After performing the ceremony, Mr. Hooper raised a glass of wine to his lips, wishing happiness to the new-married couple in a strain of mild pleasantry that ought to have brightened the features of the guests, like a cheerful gleam from the heart. At that instant, catching a glimpse of his figure in the looking-glass, the black veil involved his own spirit in the horror with which it overwhelmed others. His frame shuddered—his lips grew white—he spilt the untasted wine upon the carpet—and rushed forth into the darkness. For the earth, too, had on a black veil.

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"Then, farewell!" said Elizabeth.

She withdrew her arm from his grasp and slowly departed, pausing at the door to give one long, shuddering gaze, that seemed almost to penetrate the mystery of the black veil. But, even amid his grief, Mr. Hooper smiled to think that only a material emblem could separated him from only happiness, though the horrors which it shadowed forth must be drawn darkly between the fondest of lovers.

From that time no attempts were made to remove Mr. Hooper's black veil, or, by a direct appeal, to discover the secret which it was supposed to hide. By persons who claimed a superiority to popular prejudice, it was reckoned merely an eccentric whim, such as often mingles with the sober actions of men otherwise rational, and tinges them all with its own semblance of insanity. But with the multitude good Mr. Hooper was irreparably a bugbear. He could not walk the street with any peace of mind, so conscious was he that the gentle and timid would turn aside to avoid him, and that others would make it a point of hardihood to throw themselves in his way. The unpertinence of the latter class compelled him to give up the customary walk at sunset to the burial-ground; for when he leaned pensively over the gate, there would always be faces behind the grave-stones peeping at his black veil. A fable went the rounds that the stare of the dead people drove him hence. It grieved him to the very depth of his kind heart to observe how the children fled from his approach, breaking up their merriest sports while his melancholy figure was yet afar off. Their instinctive dread was the immediate effect on the guests, but else that a preternatural horror was interwoven with the threads of the black crape. In truth, his own antipathy to the veil was known to be so great that he never willingly passed before a mirror, nor stooped to drink at a still fountain, lest in his peaceful bosom he should be affrighted by himself. This was what gave plausibility to the whispers that Mr. Hooper's conscience tortured him for some great crime too horrible to be pardoned or even confessed, or otherwise than so obscurely intimated. Thus from beneath the black veil, there rolled a cloud into the sunshine, an ambiguity of sin or sorrow, which enveloped the poor minister, so that love or sympathy could never reach him. It was said that ghost and fiend cohsorted with him there. With self-shudderings and outward terrors, he walked continually in its shadow, groping darkly within his own soul, or gazing through a medium that saddened the whole world. Even the lawless wind, it was believed, respected this dreadful secret, and never blew aside the veil. But still good Mr. Hooper sadly smiled at the pale visages of the worldly throng as they passed by.

Among all its bad influences, the black veil had the one desirable effect of making its wearer a very efficient clergyman. By the aid of his mysterious emblem—for there was no other apparent cause—he became a man of awful power over souls that were in agony for sin. His converts always regarded him with a dread peculiar to themselves, affirming, though but figuratively, that, before he brought them to celestial light they had been with him behind the black veil. Its gloom, indeed, enabled him to sympathize with all dark affections. Dying sinners cried aloud for Mr. Hooper, and would not yield their breath till he appeared—though ever, as he stooped to whisper consolation, they shuddered at the veiled face so near their own. Such were the terrors of the black veil, even when death had buried his visage! Strangers came long distances to attend service at his church, with the mere idle purpose of gazing at his figure, because it was forbidden them to behold his face. But many were made to quake ere they departed! Once, during Gov. Belcher's administration, Mr. Hooper was appointed to preach the election sermon. Covered with his black veil, he stood before the chief magistrate, the council, and the representatives, and wrought so deep an impression that the legislative measures of that year were characterized by all the gloom and piety of our ancestral away.

In this manner Mr. Hooper spent a long life, irreproachable in outward act, yet shrouded in dismal suspicions; kind and loving, though unloved, and dimly feared; a man apart from men, shunned in their health and joy, but ever summoned to their aid, in mortal agonies. As years wore on, shedding their snows above his sable veil, he acquired a name throughout New England churches, and they called him Father Hooper. Nearly all his parishioners who were of mature age when he was settled had been borne away by many a funeral; he had one congregation in the church, and a more crowded one in the church-yard; and having wrought so late into the evening, and done his work so well, it was now good Father Hooper's turn to rest.

Several persons were visible by the shaded candle-light in the death-chamber of the old clergyman. Natural connections he had none. But there was the decorously grave, though unmoved, physician, seeking only to mitigate the last pangs of his patient, which he could not save. There were the deacons and other eminently pious members of his church. There, also, was the Rev. Mr. Clark of Westbury, a young and zealous divine, who had ridden in haste to pray by the bedside of the expiring minister. There was the nurse, no hired hand-maiden of death, but one whose affection had endured thus long in secrecy, in solitude, amid the chill of age, and would not perish, even at the dying hour. Who, but Elizabeth! And there lay the hoary head of good Father Hooper upon the death-pillow, with the black veil still swathed about his brow and reaching down over his face, so that each more difficult gasp of his faint breath caused it to stir. All through life that piece of crape had hung between him and the world; it had separated him from cheerful brotherhood and woman's love, and kept him in that saddest of all prisons, his own heart; and still it lay upon his face, as if to deepen the gloom of his darksome chamber, and shade him from the sunshine of eternity.

For some time previous, his mind had been confused, wavering doubtfully between the past and the present, at intervals, into the indistinctness of the world to come. There had been feverish turns, which tossed him from side to side, and wore away what little strength he had. But in his most convulsive struggles, and in the wildest vagaries of his intellect, when no other thought retained its sober influence, he still showed an awful solicitude lest the black veil should slip aside. Even if his bewildered soul could have forgotten there was a faithful woman at his pillow, who, with averted eyes, would have covered that aged face, which she had last beheld in the comeliness of manhood. At length the death-stricken old man lay quietly in the torpor of mental and bodily exhaustion, with an imperceptible pulse, and breath that grew fainter, except when a long, deep and irregular inspiration seemed to prelude the flight of his spirit.

The minister of Westbury approached the bedside. "Venerable Father Hooper," said he, "the moment of your release is at hand. Are you ready for the lifting of the veil that shuts in time from eternity?"

Father Hooper at first replied merely by a feeble motion of the head; then apprehensive, perhaps, that his meaning might be doubtful, he exerted himself to speak.

"Yes," said he, in faint accents, "my soul hath a patient weariness until the veil be lifted."

"And is it fitting," resumed the Rev. Mr. Clark, "that a man so given to prayer, of such a blameless example, holy in deed and thought, so far as mortal judgment can pronounce—is it fitting that a father in the church should leave shadow on his memory that may seem to blacken a life so pure? I pray you, my venerable brother, let not this thing be. Suffer us to be gladdened by your triumphant aspect as you go to your reward. Before the veil of eternity be lifted, let me cast aside this black veil from your face!"

And thus speaking, the Rev. Mr. Clark bent forward to reveal the mystery of so many years. But exerting a sudden energy that made all the beholders stand aghast, Father Hooper snatched both his hands from beneath the bed-clothes, and pressed them strongly on the black veil, resolute to struggle, if the minister of Westbury would contend with a dying man.

"Never!" cried the veiled clergyman; "on earth, never!"

"Dark old man," exclaimed the affrighted minister, "with what horrible crime upon your soul are you now passing to the judgment?"

Father Hooper's breath heaved; it rattled in his throat; but with a mighty effort, grasping forward with his hands, he caught hold of life, and held it back till he should speak. He even raised himself in bed; and there he sat, shivering with the arms of death around him, while the black veil hung down; awful, at that last moment, in the gathered terrors of a life-time. And yet the faint, sad smile, so often there, now seemed to glimmer from obscurity, and linger on Father Hooper's lips.

"Why do you tremble at me alone?" cried he, turning his veiled face round the circle of pale spectators. "Tremble at each other! Have men avoided me, and women shown no pity, and children screamed and fled, only for my black veil! What, but the mystery which it obscurely typifies, has made this piece of crape so awful? When the friend shows his utmost heart to his friend; the lover sees all the treasures of a maid's soul; even the purest of her sex dares not draw back the curtain that hides her from the gaze of her companions, and from her own; and I, alone, am I to be alone, because a veil of crape hangs before my face? When the world shall have passed away, when all mortal things shall have gone with it into the dark valley of eternity, when only the souls of the sinful shall remain, and those souls shall recognize their secrets each in the other's hearts, then shall the veil be dropped from my face, and not till then. Look around you, while you may, and lift your finger and point at your fellow-sinner, for he shall be your companion in the dreadful hereafter! And when you feel that the veil is rightfully mine, then, and only then, will I lift it!"

Father Hooper's words had a fearful influence over his dying auditors, and they shrank away from the bedside, as if each were a pollution and a mockery. The minister of Westbury stood alone beside the bed of death. Father Hooper's breath grew heavier and heavier; the black veil hung down, awful in the gathered terrors of a life-time. And yet the faint, sad smile, so often there, now seemed to glimmer from obscurity, and linger on Father Hooper's lips.

"Why do you tremble at me alone?" cried he, turning his veiled face round the circle of pale spectators. "Tremble at each other! Have men avoided me, and women shown no pity, and children screamed and fled, only for my black veil! What, but the mystery which it obscurely typifies, has made this piece of crape so awful? When the friend shows his utmost heart to his friend; the lover sees all the treasures of a maid's soul; even the purest of her sex dares not draw back the curtain that hides her from the gaze of her companions, and from her own; and I, alone, am I to be alone, because a veil of crape hangs before my face? When the world shall have passed away, when all mortal things shall have gone with it into the dark valley of eternity, when only the souls of the sinful shall remain, and those souls shall recognize their secrets each in the other's hearts, then shall the veil be dropped from my face, and not till then. Look around you, while you may, lift your finger and point at your fellow-sinner, for he shall be your companion in the dreadful hereafter! And when you feel that the veil is rightfully mine, then, and only then, will I lift it!"

While his auditors shrank from one another, in mutual affright, Father Hooper fell back upon his pillow, a veiled corpse, with a faint smile lingering on the lips.—Still veiled, they laid him in his coffin, and a veiled corpse they bore him to the grave. The grass of many years has sprung up and withered on the grave, the burial-stone is moss-grown, and good Mr. Hooper's face is dust; but awful is still the thought that it mouldered beneath the black veil!

The Mound Builders.

After the last mammoth was slain, it is very probable that many centuries passed before the mound builders came to occupy the soil where these animals had been. The mound builders were a race of men who never saw the mammoth we may be very sure; or else they would have carved or painted its likeness, as they did those of the birds they knew. But, though they made pictures of these creatures, they unfortunately did not make equally distinct pictures of themselves; so that we do not know what they looked like; and as they wrote no books we do not know what language they spoke. All that we know of them is from the wonderful works of industry and skill that they left behind, and especially from these great works that they derive their name.

One of the most remarkable of these mounds may be seen in Adams County, Ohio. It represents an immense snake a thousand feet long and five feet thick, lying along a bluff that rises above a stream. There you can trace all the curves and outlines of the snake, ending in tail with a triple coil. In the open mouth, something in the shape of an egg seems to be held; and this egg-shaped mound is one hundred and sixty feet long. This shows on what a vast scale these earthworks are constructed. Sometimes they are shaped like animals, sometimes like men. In some there are fortifications, often including one or two acres of ground, sometimes even four hundred acres. Sometimes these earthworks have from fourteen to sixteen miles of embankment. In other places there are many small mounds, arranged in a straight line, at distances nearly equal, and extending for many miles. These are supposed to have been used for sending signals from station to station across the country.

These mounds are scattered all down the valley of the Mississippi, and along many of its tributary streams. There are thousands of them, large or small, within the single State of Ohio. They are not made of earth alone, for some of them show brick work and stone work here and there, though earth is always the chief material. Some of them have chambers within; and sometimes charred wood is found on top, as if fires had been kindled there. This fact is very important, as it helps us to understand the purpose of the higher mounds; for in Central America there are similar mounds, except that those have on their tops the remains of stone temples and palaces. So it is probable that the highest mounds of the Mississippi Valley may have been built for purposes if worship; and that although their summits are now bare, yet the charred wood may be the remains of sacrificial fires, or of wooden temples that were burned long ago.

It is certain that these mound builders were in some ways well advanced in civilization. All their earthworks show more or less of engineering skill. They vary greatly in shape; they show the square, the circle, the octagon, the ellipse; and sometimes all these figures are combined in one series of works. But the circle is always a true circle, and the square a true square; and moreover, there are many squares that measure exactly 1080 feet on a side, and this shows that the mound builders had some definite standard of measurement.

There have been found in these mounds many tools and ornaments, made of copper, which are not suitable stones. There are axes, chisels, knives, bracelets and beads; there are pieces of thread and of cloth; and gracefully ornamented vases of pottery. The mound builders knew how to model in clay a variety of objects, such as birds, quadrupeds, and human faces. They practised farming, though they had no domestic animals to help them. They had neither horses, nor oxen, nor carts; so that all the vast amount of earth required for these mounds must have been carried in baskets or skins, and their population must have been very numerous, or they never could have attempted so much. They mined for copper near Lake Superior, where their deserted mines may still be seen. In one of these mines, there is a mass of copper weighing nearly six tons, partly raised from the bottom, and supported on wooden logs, now nearly decayed. It was evidently being removed to the top of the mine, more than thirty feet above; and the stone and copper tools of the miners were lying about, as if the men had just gone away.

Now, when did the ancient race of mound builders live? There is not a line of their writing left, so far as is now known; nor is there any distinct tradition about them. But there is one very sure proof that they lived very long ago. At the mouth of this very mine just described there are trees nearly 400 years old, growing on earth that was thrown out in digging the mine. Of course the mine is older than the trees. On a mound at Marietta, Ohio, there are trees 800 years old. The mounds, must of course, be as old as that and nobody knows how much older. It is very probable that this mysterious race may have built these great works more than a thousand years ago.

It is very natural to ask whether the mound builders were ancestors of our American Indians. It does not seem at all likely that they were, because the habits of the two races were so very different. Most Indian tribes show nothing of the skill and industry required for these great works. The only native tribes that seem to have a civilization of their own are certain races, called Pueblo Indians (meaning village Indians), in New Mexico. These tribes live in vast stone buildings, holding, sometimes as many as 5000 people.

But, after all, the style of building of even the Pueblo Indians is wholly unlike anything we know of the mound builders; for the mound builders do not seem to have erected stone buildings, nor do the Pueblo Indians build lofty mounds.

Perhaps this singular people will always remain a mystery. They may have come from Asia, or have been the descendants of Asiatics, accidentally cast on the American shore. Within the last hundred years, no less than fifteen Japanese vessels have been driven across the Pacific Ocean by storms, and wrecked on the Pacific coast of North America, and this may have happened as easily a thousand years ago as a hundred. It is certain that some men among the mound